



## EC refuses Irish request for abortion rewrite of Maastricht treaty



Andrews: hoped to open brief conference

EUROPEAN Community ministers yesterday refused Ireland's request to reopen the Maastricht treaty so that a special clause on abortion could be rewritten, triggering an unexpected political crisis in Dublin and complicating any future attempt by a Labour government to take Britain into the social charter.

The Maastricht treaty on political and economic union, which has been signed but not ratified by the EC's 12 governments, includes a protocol assuring Ireland that EC law does not interfere with the 1983 Irish constitutional ban on abortion. But the recent

abortion case in the Irish supreme court ruled that the drafting of the protocol did not guarantee that the anti-abortion law would not collide with EC law on freedom of movement and information.

The Irish foreign minister David Andrews yesterday asked his fellow ministers to open a brief inter-governmental conference to rewrite protocol 17 of the treaty. He said: "We are determined to prevent what is essentially a side issue in the Community from becoming a central issue in our national debate on the Maastricht treaty." A majority of eight coun-

tries, including France and Germany, refused and offered a non-binding declaration which would not be part of the treaty.

The Irish request, which was supported by Britain, The Netherlands and Denmark, has raised the possibility that the treaty might unravel if countries are given the opportunity to discuss it again. Ratification debates in several states have heard noisy calls for renegotiation. Objections

range from doubts in Germany about a single currency to unsatisfied subsidy demands from southern countries.

Many ministers said yesterday that opening a new treaty conference, however briefly, would open a "Pandora's box" of complications. "We will not open this box again," a senior EC official said afterwards.

This unexpectedly harsh refusal to reopen Maastricht issues may

complicate any attempt by a Labour government to take Britain into the social charter clauses of the treaty, which were accepted only by 11 states. Labour leaders hope to call an inter-governmental conference on the social clauses within a month of taking office. Whitehall has already advised Labour leaders that they cannot afford to wait: the Danish government has asked its partners not to alter the treaty text after mid-May in order to avoid complications in its own ratification referendum in early June.

As a contingency, British officials have discussed with the EC the possibility that Britain could accept the social clauses of the treaty without calling a fully-fledged treaty conference. EC states would simply make a declaration that the section of the treaty saying that certain social laws would apply to 11 states only would be inoperative.

But Whitehall officials regard this method as second best and open to challenge in the courts. British sources said yesterday that Ireland's rejection would not help Britain's case but that other EC governments would be more sympathetic to clearing up the social charter than the abortion issue.

## Bomb blast in deserted alley leaves police puzzled

BY LIN JENKINS AND MICHAEL HORNELL

A BOMB believed to have been planted by the IRA exploded in the West End of London yesterday smashing windows but injuring no one. Two people were treated for shock at the scene.

The device, containing less than 1lb of high explosive, went off shortly after 9.15am in an alley outside a block of flats in Briddle Lane, just north of Piccadilly Circus. Anti-terrorist squad officers confirmed that the device was typical of those used by the IRA, but were puzzled as to the target.

Disruption was kept to a minimum and the main routes in the area were reopened to traffic within minutes. A spokesman said that was not the result of a change of policy, but simply reflected the size of the bomb and the fact that it was in a "non-sensitive area" with no obvious targets.

Bombs in more sensitive areas, such as the one in Whitehall near the National Liberal Club, have seriously delayed London traffic for most of a day. There has been concern over the ease with which the IRA can disrupt the capital, and efforts have been made to ensure that life returns to normal as soon as possible.

Commander George Churchill-Coleman, head of the anti-terrorist squad, who spent ten minutes at the scene, said that planting the

bomb was sheer recklessness. "No warnings were given and we were fortunate that there were no casualties." He added that there appeared to be no obvious target.

Ten minutes before the explosion a man on a black BMW motor cycle was seen outside the office block with the engine running. Mark Bostock, aged 35, a photographer's agent, said: "I noticed him on my way into work in Briddle Lane and wondered what he was doing there. He was just sitting there."

"The next thing that happened was a flash and big explosion. I'd just got into the office in an alleyway off Briddle Lane. The windows blew out and there was smoke everywhere. I went outside and the whole street was covered in glass. Window frames were hanging out and there was damage to the brickwork where I work about 15ft away from the explosion. If I'd



Aftermath: police seal Soho after the bomb explosion near Piccadilly Circus which blew out windows of flats but injured nobody

## Scotland Yard surprised by timing

*Was yesterday's bomb a bungled mission or a new IRA campaign, asks Stewart Tander?*

SCOTLAND Yard's anti-terrorist branch was last night working on the theory that yesterday's bomb in central London could be the first sign of an IRA attempt to disrupt Britain during the election. If the bomb proves to be the work of the IRA it will leave police with more questions to answer than normal.

Scotland Yard said that the device was similar to known IRA bombs, although this could not be confirmed until forensic scientists had examined the debris and compared it with past attacks.

The possibility of an IRA attack during the election has been awaited since the IRA

campaign and why it chose this street. There was no known target in the area and if the aim was to cause traffic chaos, other targets would have been more effective.

Police are also unclear why the bomb was so small. The size follows a pattern seen in other recent devices and it is believed that the active service unit could be conserving explosive and has even run short of large devices.

The key question for police is whether the unit has decided to remind London of its presence or whether yesterday's bomb proves to be the overtur to a renewed campaign.

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## Consumers shrug off inflation

BY DAVID YOUNG

CONSUMERS in the South-East, East Anglia and the South-West are becoming less concerned about inflation and unemployment, but are still making no plans for any major spending, according to the latest Gallup/BSL survey of consumers.

It shows that there are reasons to infer a slight rise in consumer spending in the first quarter of this year, but gives no strong backing to government assertions that the recession is showing signs of ending.

The slight rise in consumer confidence follows from the decline in consumer spending seen in 1991, the sharpest since national accounts were first collected in 1984.

The survey also found that the differences between consumers' views are now less marked than a year ago. In Wales, however, consumer sentiment is well below the national average.

The reason, says BSL, for there being less concern about inflation in the south is that most price discounting has happened in that area, but less concern about employment is surprising because unemployment there has increased at a faster rate.

BSL said: "The south has the most optimistic expectations for economic prospects for the coming year. However ... saving is becoming less attractive to consumers, even though over half still think it a good time to save."

## Parents plead for help to find killer

BY RICHARD DUCE

THE family of Nicholas Hanscomb, who was stabbed to death at Notting Hill Carnival, yesterday appealed for public help in finding his killer. The attacker has still to be traced after seven months, an inquest was told yesterday.

Dr Hanscomb, aged 38, became involved in a scuffle with a group of men at the carnival and was stabbed in the leg. He gave chase but collapsed and died from his wound, the Westminster coroner, Dr Paul Chapman, said.

After the coroner recorded a verdict that Dr Hanscomb had been unlawfully killed, John Hanscomb, his father, said that the family had been "devastated and crushed".

Mr Hanscomb, a Conservative councillor and member of the Greater Manchester police committee, said: "We appeal to anybody who has any information about what has happened to come forward. We do this not only in the hope that we might find some peace in knowing that justice has been done by Nick, our beloved son, but equally importantly to avoid the possibility of someone else losing their life."

Dr Hanscomb, who helped

## Dilemma of Shavian legacy

BY SIMON TAIT

ARTS CORRESPONDENT

THE British Library will set up a fund to control the cost of its collection of manuscripts, worth up to £500,000 a year in royalties from his works, from the British Museum.

Brian Lang, chief executive of the library, said yesterday he had asked for an early meeting with Robert Anderson, the new director of the British Museum, and Lord Windlesham, the chairman of the museum's trustees.

In his early years in London, Shaw spent most days in the museum's reading room researching and laying the groundwork for his career. Before his death, in 1950, he arranged for the museum board of trustees to be made a beneficiary of royal income "in acknowledgement of the incalculable value to me of my daily resort to the reading room".

This became known as the Shaw Fund, which the Treasury decreed should be used "primarily for the benefit of the library". The library was separated from the museum in 1973 and has since presided for the fund's transfer.

Hanscomb: stabbed in scuffle at carnival

## Tax cuts fail to put brake on slump in new car sales

BY KEVIN EASON, MOTORING CORRESPONDENT

GOVERNMENT measures to stem more than two years of declining sales in the motor industry failed last month, according to figures issued yesterday by the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders. Sales in March fell for the 29th consecutive month.

Norman Lamont, the Chancellor, halved special car tax in his Budget to reduce the cost of an average family saloon by about £100. But the society said that uncertainty over the election may have kept customers away.

There were 143,115 registrations last month, 15.24 per cent lower than in March 1991 and way down on the

208,733 registrations of the year before. Sales of 406,211 in the first quarter of the year are 11 per cent lower than in the first three months of last year, and motor manufacturers are less optimistic about forecasts that Britain's biggest manufacturing industry is about to pull out of its worst slump since the war.

Sales last year were the worst for a decade. Fewer than 1.6 million cars were registered, compared with 2 million the year before.

Car makers had been confident that a revival would come this year and predicted that registrations could reach as many as 1.74 million, with the Budget cut in special car

## Texaco raises prices

TEXACO is putting up the price of petrol by 4.5p a gallon as pressure on oil grows because of fears of a potential United Nations blockade of Libya (Kevin Eason writes).

Intense trading on the Rotterdam spot market has pushed the cost of bulk petrol supplies from \$196 a tonne to \$205 in less than a week as speculation grew. BP and Shell, Britain's biggest oil

companies, said last night that they had no immediate plans for price rises.

Texaco, which has 1,300 filling stations, decided to raise pump prices from the start of trading tomorrow.

The price of four-star petrol goes up to 236p (51.9p a litre) with unleaded up to 214.6p (47.2p), super unleaded 223.7p (49.2p) and diesel 207.8p (45.7p).

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tax contributing up to 80,000 new sales. It is becoming increasingly clear that there will be no significant recovery at least until August.

Geoffrey Pelling, the society's general manager, said: "Sales were sluggish ahead of the Budget and the welcome boost from the Chancellor's reduction of car tax has now been counteracted by uncertainty over the general election."

Geoffrey Whalen, managing director of Peugeot Talbot, was confident that recovery would come but said that there was little hope of finding customers in large numbers until uncertainty over the election and the economy was ended.

Gavin Laird, general secretary of the Amalgamated Engineering Union, said: "These figures show that the Tories are driving us further into the recession. It is time to change course and elect a government that will support manufacturing industry."

Drivers with mortgages are safer on the road than those without them, according to a report by psychologists for the AA Foundation for Road Safety Research yesterday.

Geoff Rolls and Dr Roger Ingham of Southampton University said motorists with mortgages had less money for socialising and were usually in steady relationships.

Young single men tended to spend their free time with male friends who encouraged aggressive driving as passengers. The psychologists interviewed 56 drivers aged 17 to 25 and compared 29 "unsafe" young drivers with 27 "safe" motorists.

## Maze jail governor beaten by prisoners

The governor of Ulster's top security Maze prison was beaten as he carried out a routine inspection at the jail yesterday in an attack believed to have been carried out by Loyalist paramilitaries.

Two hooded men knocked the governor to the ground and then kicked and punched him. One of his principal officers was also attacked and was treated for a suspected broken cheek bone. The governor suffered severe bruising to the head and body, but the Northern Ireland Office said he remained out of duty.

Dr Brian Mawhinney, Ulster law and order minister, said it was a planned attack. It is understood that Ulster Volunteer Force prisoners were involved, and Dr Mawhinney said an internal investigation was under way. The hooded attackers were shielded by other men as they lashed out with feet and fists.

## Times wins design awards

The Times has won two international design awards in the Society of Newspaper Design competition. Awards of excellence went to John Lawson and Geoffrey Sims in the "breaking news graphics" category. Their graphics illustrating the allied land attack and the workings of the Scud missile during the Gulf war were singled out for special praise.

With more than 7,500 entries, awards were given to newspapers in ten countries. The winners will be featured at the society's exhibition in Washington in the autumn.

## Ban case appeal

The decision by the Aberdeen sheriff's court last week not to ban a drink-driver because it could affect his son's position at a private school is to be challenged in the High Court by the fiscal's office. George Black, an Aberdeen joinery contracts manager, aged 40, admitted driving over the alcohol limit but was let off with a fine of £250 by Sheriff Rosie Morrison after he said he needed his licence to keep his job and pay his son's £4,000-a-year school fees.

## 'Face' talks fail

Solicitors acting for Jason Donovan and The Face magazine last night failed to reach agreement over the publication's future. A meeting to discuss saving the magazine, which has been ordered to pay the actor and pop singer £200,000 libel damages and which faces legal costs of a further £200,000, ended after an hour. Mr Donovan, aged 23, won the damages over an article in the magazine that suggested he was a homosexual.

Leading article, page 17

## Concrete delay

The owners of 4,000 concrete houses in southwest England still do not know when a test will be available to determine whether their homes contain a concrete called "mundic" which is defective. The test, being developed by the Building Research Establishment, would not be available until the summer, the environment department said yesterday after meeting lenders who are refusing to offer loans on houses that might contain the concrete until a test is found.

## Tunnel boycott

An estimated 1,000 companies took part in a boycott of Merseyside's river tunnels yesterday, organised by the Wirral chamber of commerce and industry, in protest over increases in toll charges.

There were increases from 60p to £1 for cars, and lorry tolls went up by 122 per cent, from £1.80 to £4, after a decision to transfer the full capital cost of building the tunnels from the local authorities to road users.

## Women lay siege to bunker of male supremacy

BY TIM JONES

A POLITICAL campaign that could make the general election appear mild threatens to disrupt the balcony on air surrounding the exclusive greens of the Dulwich and Sydenham golf club, which once provided relaxation for Denis Thatcher.

At the forthcoming annual meeting, women members are to demand the same right as men to use the course whenever they wish. In a troubled world, Mr Thatcher and other male members have been able to escape from high powered petticoat regimes to the course, which

prevents women from playing before noon at the weekend.

As one member said: "Traditionally, women were considered to be housewives with lots of time to play golf during the week. It was seen as only fair that at weekends their use of the course should be restricted so that men could relax after a hard week at the office. Although the role of women may have changed, there is still a feeling among the men that it is nice to have a few hours without the ladies who are anyway pretty poor golfers."

The issue is considered so sensitive that the woman secretary of the

club, Mrs Alexander, would say only: "This is a routine club matter and I really cannot be bothered to go through it with you. It is a private matter."

One man said: "Although this change in rules is backed by senior officials, I don't expect it to go through as the

treasury

Maze jail  
governor  
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## Football riot trial threatened by ban on police secrecy

BY RICHARD FORD, HOME CORRESPONDENT

THE trial of 19 Manchester United supporters who are accused of rioting could collapse after the High Court yesterday upheld a decision that undercover police officers should give evidence in public police said.

The defendants face charges including conspiracy to riot, rioting and causing violent disorder. They were arrested in a raid codenamed Operation Mars, which followed an investigation into football violence between September 1989 and October 1990.

The High Court yesterday rejected an application by the Director of Public Prosecutions, acting for the police, to overturn a judgment that the officers should not be allowed to keep their identities screened from the public. The Home Office said that a decision on whether witnesses gave evidence from behind screens was at the discretion of the trial judge.

Lord Justice Lloyd, sitting with Mr Justice Waterhouse, ruled that the prosecution had no right of appeal against the decision by Judge Owen at Manchester crown court last year. Lord Justice Lloyd added that it was not

open to the prosecution to seek a judicial review "when ever faced with what is regarded as an inconvenient or unjust decision".

In a ruling which could affect similar trials, he said that the prosecution had never had a right of appeal in such circumstances. The courts, he added, should not create a "surrogate right of appeal" by extending the supervisory role of the High Court through judicial review even if this meant that a trial never took place.

Last year at Manchester crown court, Judge Owen decided that the undercover officers should not be allowed to keep their identities screened. The police had argued that the risk to the officers came not so much from the defendants but from drug dealers and other criminals who sat in the public galleries at the crown court to obtain information about undercover officers. Judge Owen said he had no objection to the officers not revealing their names and addresses in open court but said he would not put up with secrecy surrounding evidence in court.

The High Court overturned another ruling by

Judge Owen that the trial on the conspiracy charges should not take place at all because of delay by the prosecution in bringing the case to court. The judge stayed those charges because the delay amounted to an abuse of the court process. Lord Justice Lloyd said the judge had been the victim of "inexplicable confusion" and there had been no unjustifiable delay on the part of the prosecution. It had taken time for the police to build up a picture of the alleged conspiracy.

Anthony Scrivenor, QC, for the defence, said that he would seek leave to appeal to the Lords over whether the High Court had power to intervene through judicial review proceedings in cases where a stay had been ordered on charges which formed the whole or part of an indictment in a criminal trial. He said it was of public importance that the issue should be resolved because many other cases were "in the pipeline".

Greater Manchester police declined to comment last night because "the matter may now be appealed to the House of Lords and remains sub judice."

**Vandals blamed for fire at Aintree**

BY JOHN YOUNG

THE fire which burned down Becher's Brook, the Grand National's most famous fence, was probably started by vandals, police said yesterday.

About £2,000 of damage was caused by the fire on Sunday night, the day after huge crowds had watched Party Politics win the famous steeplechase.

The arsonists struck when most of the strict security precautions imposed for the three-day meeting had been lifted. The 60ft wide fence, consisting of wooden stakes built up with spruce and thorn, was reduced to charred twigs and stumps.

In recent years the Grand National has been the target of animal rights activists who claim the race has caused an unacceptable number of deaths and injuries. Police believe that protesters would have struck before or during the race. Last year, demonstrators invaded the course, delaying the start by ten minutes, and others set fire to the new Queen Mother stand.

But police said that activists may have encouraged local youths to start Sunday night's blaze. John Parrett, general manager of Aintree racecourse, said that earlier in the day security staff had chased children with petrol cans from the course. Eric Dempsey, a fire officer, said: "The fence was engulfed in flames when we got there. Someone had run along the whole length with petrol. We could smell it."

Becher's Brook was named after Captain Martin Becher, who rode a horse called Conrad in the first race in 1839 and was pitched headlong into the brook on the landing side. It has accounted for six of the 13 horses killed in the race in the last 23 years.

The fence was made safer in 1989 after two horses, Brown Trix and Seandene, fell at the fence and had to be destroyed. No horses or jockeys were seriously injured in last Saturday's race.

Timely repairs, page 37

## BA's cadet pilots hired by rival

BY HARVEY ELLIOTT, AIR CORRESPONDENT

NEWLY-TRAINED British Airways pilots, many of whom are having to work as cabin crew because of the drop in the number of air passengers, are being recruited by Cathay Pacific to fly jumbo jets, provided that they are not at the controls for take-off or landing.

The "cruise only" pilots are needed to monitor the instruments of long-range Boeing 747s while the main crew rests during non-stop flights between Hong Kong and Europe. They are not allowed to handle the aircraft below 10,000ft but gain experience of sitting on the flight deck.

The pilots, who were trained by BA at a cost of about £50,000 each, will eventually be given permanent jobs with the airline, but may have to wait for at least another year.

A BA spokesman said: "We have about 280 fully qualified cadet pilots who have graduated from Oxford Air Training School or from Prestwick but who cannot be given a job at the moment. There are

unlikely to be openings before the end of this year."

Since qualifying as commercial pilots some cadets have taken jobs outside the industry, while many have been employed as stewards at a basic salary of £7,800 a year compared with a co-pilot's £25,000.

Almost all training courses paid for by airlines, except the conversion of flight engineers into fully-fledged pilots, have now been halted but dozens of would-be pilots are paying to go through the two-year course needed to obtain an Airline Transport Pilots licence.

Ken Meehan, principal of the Oxford Air Training School, said: "They are using all sorts of means of raising the cash and, despite the sacrifice and the lack of vacancies today, I am convinced that those who join now will all get jobs when they are qualified. Hundreds of pilots will retire over the next two years and all the signs are that the airlines are poised to grow strongly from now on."

## Police seek sick boy

POLICE looking for a missing boy aged five who needs regular medication for a heart condition concentrated their hunt yesterday on two holiday resorts (Paul Wilkinson writes).

Luke Welsh was last seen on Friday with his mother Marie, aged 34, at Leeds station. Mrs Welsh has agoraphobia, a fear of open spaces, and West Yorkshire police, co-ordinating the search, say that she was also depressed.

Yesterday, officers were fol-

lowing up comments made by Mrs Welsh to her family that she wanted to visit the seaside, especially Blackpool and Scarborough. The police said: "The sooner we can trace this lady the better. Luke needs medication for his condition regularly and things could become serious if he doesn't receive it."

Luke, from Leeds, has to take drugs twice a day to avoid fits and had only a limited supply with him. An aunt normally cares for him.

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Missing: Marie Welsh and her son, Luke

## Hop aphids beaten by sex appeal

BY NIGEL HAWKES, SCIENCE EDITOR

THE sex appeal of the female aphid is being exploited in the battle to preserve the quality of British beer. Scientists at Horticulture Research International at East Malling, Kent, are using the attractants exuded by the females to attract males and infect them with lethal fungal spores as a way of controlling an aphid that devastates the Kentish hop gardens in the summer.

Insecticides have become increasingly ineffective against the aphid, which has learned how to detoxify most of them. They multiply prodigiously but asexually in the hop gardens between July and September, producing a new generation every ten days. In autumn, sated on hops, the aphids move for plums, damsons and

blackthorn, having been attracted by the scent of virgin females, and another generation of egg-laying females is born.

Colin Campbell and colleagues at East Malling have found a way of synthesising the sex pheromone, which can be used as a basis for traps. So powerful is the scent that a closed plastic container containing the pheromone in a hop garden leaks enough through its pores to attract thousands of male aphids which can then be caught and killed in a water trap.

Dr Campbell has added a further twist by sparing the lives of the frustrated males and using them to carry a deadly fungal infection back to other members of their species. The beauty is, he says, that the infected males

carry the fungal spores "to hedges, to people's back gardens, to all the places where we can't get at them", and cause epidemics that kill off the aphids.

Last year a Kent hop farmer used the pheromones to produce "organic hops", the first time, he believes, that insecticide-free hops have been grown in Britain for many years. The hops were sold to a brewery in Edinburgh producing organic beer, for three times the regular price.

Dr Campbell believes that a second front will be needed before the damson-hop aphid cries surrender. He and his team have devised a way of predicting the summer migration back to the hop gardens, and intend to be waiting for them with a population of natural predators: lacewings.



Toughest test: Graeme Souness arrives at the Alexandra hospital, with him was the model Karen Levy

BY JOHN GOODBOY  
AND NICK NUTTALL

GRAEME Souness will today undergo a triple bypass heart operation with the chances high that he will resume his £350,000 a year job next season as Liverpool manager, in spite of the stress of leading the most successful English football club.

Mr Souness, aged 38, will miss the rest of this season including the FA Cup semi-final replay against Portsmouth next Monday, with the club again turning to Ronnie Moran as caretaker-manager. Mr Moran took over last season when Kenny Dalglish gave up being Liverpool manager because of the pressures.

Mr Souness, a former Scottish international, whose marriage ended partly because of the stress of managing Glasgow Rangers from 1986-91, told the players after Liverpool drew

the FA Cup semi-final 1-1 with Portsmouth at Highbury on Sunday.

David Moores, the Liverpool chairman, said: "Graeme pulled them off the coach, took them into a restaurant and explained the situation to them. He has been worried for some time about not feeling as right as he should and he saw the club doctor, who said he should have some tests. After the tests, they decided to get him in straight away."

Mr Souness has always been renowned for his physical fitness but his family has a history of heart trouble. His father had a heart

bypass three years ago and his uncle died of heart disease when he was 35.

The Liverpool manager

yesterday went to the Alexan-

dra hospital in Cheadle,

Greater Manchester, where

more than 500 open-heart

surgery operations are car-

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**Pol  
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GOVERNMENT  
to retain border  
the Single Euro  
will be opposed  
bureaucrats and  
managers drag Britain into  
rest of Europe.

The European Commission  
will this month propose insisting that a legal obligation systematic from  
on people as well as ports plan a demand the abolition  
of frontier formalities.

With 200 days  
single market conver-  
tence, communists  
fear that British entry  
is undermining the  
Europe without frontiers.  
ports' managers  
that the preservation  
of controls could  
ports' viability.

Although controls  
are being ex-  
located away from  
the government  
clear its determination  
tain systematic  
controls at all levels  
entry, defying  
demands for the  
controls between  
states. The controls  
tains that any



Passport controls

**Poli  
prote  
jail**

Four poll tax per-  
sentences were sent  
part in a riot in Essex, after a  
trial estimated to cost £1 million.

At Norwich  
Terry Frost,  
Colchester, was  
two years in prison  
Andrew Heseltine  
Aylesford, nine  
months for rioting.  
Hammett,  
Colchester, nine  
violent disorder  
aged 19, of  
was sentenced to  
detention in a  
ers' institution  
disorder.

Judge Birrell  
that many people  
posed to the tax  
the disturbance  
grave danger to

**Attack**  
Paul Chatterton  
of Clapham, son  
don, who  
Summerskill, a  
of The Pink P  
cal for homes  
tenced to 80 hours  
service by a  
crown court.

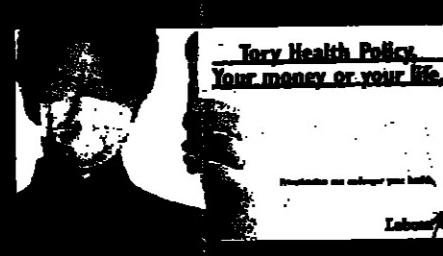
**Police**  
Four police officers  
aged by brick  
and a stolen car  
out, after they  
gathered to watch  
Luton. The  
youths were ar

**Tourist**  
A Texan tourist  
sufficed scuffles  
after being hit  
knee on his head  
and a knife in  
south London  
made of Vietnamese  
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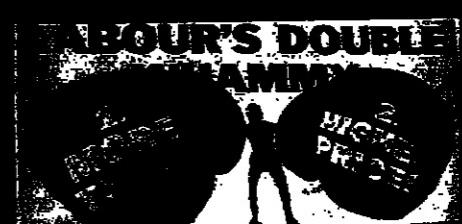
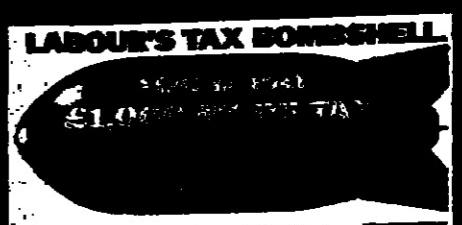
**Prison**  
A Cambodian  
of gangster  
arrested at  
Abingdon  
shines a light  
Croatia.

**Revol**  
The American  
Marshall  
of the  
party  
President  
G

# Whatever happened to Education,



**LABOUR ISN'T  
WORKING.**



# Europe, The Environment, Constitutional Reform, Transport, Housing and Energy?



**Liberal Democrats**

Look at the Conservative billboards pictured on the right: not one promotes their own achievements. Well, that's hardly surprising.

Now, look at Labour's. Not one promotes Labour's policies. Well that's not surprising either.

But what is depressing is that neither is addressing the agenda that should dominate the General Election debate.

Well, if they won't, we will. We will, of course, tackle the economic crisis, promoting measures that both sides can agree on.

the economy in the short term and develop it for the longer term.

But we will also have to invest in education, even if it means additional money on income tax.

the full potential of Europe.

We will also have to tackle the environmental crisis, which is threatening our way of life.

We will also have to combat racism and discrimination, which is threatening our society.

the Conservative and Labour governments.

We will also have to tackle the social problems that affect the lives of ordinary people.

We will also have to tackle the social problems that affect the lives of ordinary people.

If the way to our support in this General Election is to raise and face your agenda - the one that matters - and to campaign positively for it, then that's where we're coming from.

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Britain opposed on two fronts

## Ports demand open borders within EC

GOVERNMENT attempts to retain border controls in the single European market will be opposed by Brussels bureaucrats and UK port managers determined to drag Britain into line with the rest of Europe next year.

The European Commission will this month publish a report insisting that Britain has a legal obligation to abolish systematic frontier controls on people as well as goods, and five leading British ferry ports plan a campaign to demand the abolition of frontier formalities.

With 269 days before the single market comes into existence, commission officials fear that British opposition to the free movement of people is undermining the vision of a Europe without frontiers. UK port managers are worried that the preservation of border controls could impair the ports' viability.

Although customs formalities are being eliminated or located away from frontiers, the government has made clear its determination to retain systematic immigration controls at all UK points of entry, defying commission demands for the abolition of controls between member states. The commission maintains that any immigration

Brussels is not alone in calling for relaxed frontier controls. Michael Dynes reports

controls after next year would be a violation of Article 8a of the Single European Act, as ratified by Britain in 1987.

Home Office officials say that nothing in the agreement requires Britain to abandon immigration controls over third country nationals, including those arriving from other member states.

"If you travel between Scotland and England there are no frontier checks," he said. "The borders between Britain and the other member states should be exactly the same. The fact that they will not be is nothing more than a hangover from the old ways of doing things. Britain will be left out in the cold yet again."

Mr Whitehead said he sympathised with the government's conviction that increased vigilance at the European Community's external frontier would be insufficient to compensate for abolishing internal frontier controls. However, the government had not made any effort to help to strengthen the external frontier.

*The Times Guide to the Single European Market*, by Richard Owen and Michael Dynes, will be published by Times Books on April 23, price £8.99.



Featherweight: a ten-week-old African fish eagle with its handler Jemima Parry-Jones, owner of the National Birds of Prey Centre at Newent near Gloucester. It is one of two that Mrs Parry-Jones believes are the first to be hatched in captivity



Passport please: the EC says that immigration controls will violate the Single European Act

### Poll tax protesters jailed

Four poll tax protesters were sentenced yesterday for their part in a riot in Colchester, Essex, after a three-month trial estimated to have cost £5 million.

At Norwich crown court, Terry Frost, aged 23, of Colchester, was sentenced to two years in prison for riot; Andrew Hester, aged 21, of Aylesford, received 18 months for riot; and Christine Hamnett, aged 36, of Colchester, nine months for violent disorder. Patrick Tyler, aged 19, of Brightlingsea, was sentenced to six months' detention in a young offenders' institution for violent disorder.

Judge Birns acknowledged that many people were opposed to the tax but said that the disturbances had posed a grave danger to public safety.

### Attack penalty

Paul Charl-Collins, aged 27, of Clapham, southwest London, who butted Ben Summerskill, aged 30, editor of *The Pink Paper*, a periodical for homosexuals, was sentenced to 80 hours' community service by Southwark crown court.

**Police cars hit**

Four police cars were damaged by bricks and bottles and a stolen car was burnt out, after over 30 youths gathered to watch joyriders in Littlemore, Oxford. Four youths were arrested.

### Tourist knifed

A Texan tourist aged 68 has suffered serious eye damage after being slashed with a knife on his face, body, legs and arms in Southwark, south London. His attacker made off with a wallet containing about £50.

### Priest accused

A Catholic priest was accused of gross indecency with a boy aged under 14 at Douai Abbey, near Reading, Berkshire. Newbury magistrates demanded Father Michael Creagh, aged 55, on bail.

### Regional best

The Birmingham *Evening Mail* was named Newspaper of the Year and Daily Newspaper of the Year in the UK Press Gazette regional press awards.

### Officers hurt

Two policemen were taken to hospital after a fight broke out in a food shop in Hackney, east London.

### School cuts prompt protest

BY MATTHEW D'ANCONA  
EDUCATION REPORTER

PARENTS from 17 local education authorities gathered in London yesterday to protest at cuts at their children's schools and to support demands for a re-examination of educational funding after the election.

Reductions in local government spending and the pressure of formula funding, which links each school's budget to the number of pupils it attracts, have forced many schools to seek financial help from parents.

John Morgan, a parent and the chairman of governors at Crays primary school in Three Crosses, West Glamorgan, said that the school was underfunded by between 10 and 15 per cent and that parents had stopped attending social functions because they knew that they would be asked for money. "We have managed to stay afloat only by making drastic economies," he said.

"We have lost a half-time teacher. We have made a massive cut in spending on essential equipment. Our children only have paper, pencils and books because we have used money donated by parents. But our community is a very mixed one and not all parents can afford to give money."

The head teacher, Mr Morgan said, was also doing the school's secretarial work and acting as caretaker in the evenings.

Jennifer Faulkner, a parent from St Paul's school, Dorking, Surrey, said that the school had raised £30,000 in the past five years from jumble sales and other emergency measures to meet the costs of basic equipment. "We seem to have a jumble sale system of education where a child's chance of attending a well equipped school depends on his or her parent's abilities at fund raising," she said.

The Campaign for State Education, which organised the meeting, argues that the extent of underfunding has been obscured by the reluctance of schools to appear vulnerable in the educational market place.

Sharon Goulds, of the school parents' association in Wandsworth, southwest London, said that cuts under discussion in the borough would mean classes of 40 and under-staffing of schools, but that head teachers had been prevented by the local authority from discussing the problem with parents.

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 Lords Leaping, L&T ..... 5

## ELECTION 92

TUESDAY APRIL 7 1992

## Constitutional change rejected

## Baker claims PR has helped fascists to march again

By ROBIN OAKLEY, POLITICAL EDITOR

THE Conservatives launched their toughest attack on proportional representation yesterday. Kenneth Baker, the home secretary, said that PR could be "a pact with the devil" and that it had "helped the fascists to march again in Europe", making it easier for extremists to gain power.

He said that the fascist Republikaner party had taken 11 per cent of the vote in the state of Baden-Württemberg in German regional elections under the PR system. It was because of concern about a "flood of migrants and would-be asylum seekers" such as he had been voicing in Britain.

Mr Baker said that the other parties in Britain were not prepared to discuss the tough immigration and asylum laws on which good race relations depended and they would introduce in PR a political system which would "unleash extremists who fed upon public concern about this issue".

The German experience, he said, was "a terrible warning to us about what could happen if we threw away our system of first past the post elections". That is what Mr Ashdown wants us to do. It is what Mr Kinnock is prepared to do as the price for power.

The home secretary's comments came as the Conservatives took the risk of looking defeatist by focusing their London press conference on the Liberal Democrats' agenda of a hung parliament, PR and constitutional change.

John Major was firmly against any concessions to Scottish devolution even if, as now seems likely, more than three quarters of Scotland's voters were to back parties supporting a Scottish parliament or independence.

The prime minister said that the issue had not been adequately debated and that the ramifications of devolution were not properly understood even in Scotland.

Setting up a Scottish assembly could "lead to chaos, bitterness and move us a step forward towards separation". Tax-raising powers for such a body would "raise the conflict threshold with the Westminster parliament".

Labour and Liberal Democrat policies posed dangers to the future of the UK and he accused them of "already trying to trade policies between each other, even before the voters have had their say". Only the Conservatives stood firmly for "the integrity of our parliament and our UK".

Mr Major indicated that under his more consensual brand of Conservatism, any future help would be concentrated on people of modest means, who had benefited from the creation of a 20p tax band for the first £2,000 of taxable income, in the recent Budget.

He said that in the future any money left over after spending increases should go towards widening the scope of this 20p band so that it eventually embraced all taxpayers.

Asked about the future balance between spending increases and tax cuts, he said the government had already made spending increases its chief priority. The £6 billion boost for public spending announced in the autumn statement had been "many times" larger than Mr Lamont's £1.8 billion tax give-away, Mr Major said.

Douglas Hurd, the foreign secretary, said that nothing would put Scotland in a weaker position with the Treasury than Labour's plan for a Scottish parliament with tax-raising powers to cover just 4 per cent of Scotland's needs. A hung parliament would "hang the recovery", paralyse business decisions and smother consumer confidence. Interest rates and mortgage rates would be likely to rise and "the recent flirtation of nods and winks between the Labour and Liberal campaigns would become a way of life".

Everything would be done for party interests and nothing for the nation as Britain lived in an election atmosphere for months. "To expect the Liberals to control Labour would be like asking Dad's Army to restrain the Mongol hordes," Mr Hurd said.

## Whitelaw criticised for rebuff

A Tory candidate yesterday criticised Lord Whitelaw for withdrawing support from Sir Nicholas Fairbairn because of his remarks about immigration under Labour.

John Whifield, fighting Dewsbury, where immigration is an issue, backed Sir Nicholas's claim that the UK was in danger of being "swamped" by immigrants if Labour won. "I am disappointed that Lord Whitelaw refused to recognise the importance of this issue for those of us in areas affected by immigration," he said.

## Adams trails

Gerry Adams, president of Sinn Fein, has a fight on his hands to retain Belfast West, according to a poll in the *Irish News*. It showed the SDLP candidate Joe Hendron with 28.75 per cent of the vote and Mr Adams on 20.5 per cent.

## King slips up

Tom King, the defence secretary, has infuriated a postman in his Bridgwater constituency by using a photograph of the two of them in election literature. The picture was taken when Mr King visited the Bridgwater sorting office. Mike Sanders, aged 59, said he was a life-long Labour supporter.

## Shares switch

A Tory victory would lead to 47 per cent of private shareholders increasing their portfolios while a Labour win would prompt 35 per cent to cut back, according to a survey by ShareLink, the stockbrokers. Some 20 per cent would reduce holdings in the event of a hung parliament.

## Poster protest

The Conservative candidate in Great Grimsby, Philip Jackson, has complained to the Labour party after posters saying "local man" were changed to "local maniac". Labour deplored the action.

## Ashdown passes the initiative test



CAMPAIGN SKETCH

MATTHEW PARRIS

Bumping into Paddy Ashdown at the BBC yesterday — he was about to be interviewed by Jimmy Young — I had the impression less of a politician on the stump, and more of an ambitious military recruit attempting in double-quick time a series of bizarre stunts designed to test his drive, ingenuity and physical stamina.

If, after landing an interview with Mr Young, his orders had been to cycle to Brighton and back then abduct five penguins from Regent's Park Zoo, it would hardly have seemed out of keeping. Such is the aura which has surrounded his campaign drive.

I watched him in Liverpool, if the ambition was to shake more hands in fewer seconds while saying more "Hiyahs" than any glad-handed in history, then he was winning. If the challenge was to beat a little of journalists travelling up to the ninth floor of a squall tower block by running up the stairs, then he succeeded. If his orders were to get himself photographed remonstrating with a militant heckler, with a revolutionary poster as backdrop, within nine minutes of arriving in Broadgreen, then Captain Ashdown obeyed these, too ... and the big yellow coach moved on.

Unlike the other leaders, Mr Ashdown has been in charge of his squad, not its mascot. He makes the run-

ning. His team just tries to keep up. He seems to love it.

His campaign technique mirrors his approach at party conferences. It could be adapted for audio presentation and marketed as *The Ashdown Method — a course in six cassettes*. Its essential components are (1) an impression of huge self-confidence, (2) correct breathing and posture, (3) rapid movement through a series of "freeze-frame" poses, (4) five minutes' intense meditation before breakfast during which the students repeatedly chant *I really do love each person I shall meet today*, ringing a small bell between this and (5) the alternate chant: *My party and I are friends; they are on my side*.

Ting-ting. Oh — and (6) two portable AutoCue screens and three speeches. Thus forearmed, Mr Ashdown sets forth. So far he has never faltered.

It is important to identify the strengths and limitations of the Ashdown Method. It works. It would not do so, I suspect, without a strand of sincerity, and a strand of deceit. I believe Paddy Ashdown really does

talled cross-examination of his programme: indeed there has been little demand for it. Time and again he gets away with a warm handshake, a rousing little homily about fair voting and about the childlessness of his opponents — and a fast move into the next green posture.

Meanwhile, Messrs Major and Kinnock face the flak that each has generated and directs at the other's programme. We have been able to see how each performs. However imperfectly, they are being tested. Ashdown is not. Captain Ashdown gets away with deplored gunfire generally and keeping out of the firing line himself: a privilege afforded to small parties whose manifestos are not yet taken seriously.

But soon, he will have to stop running, sit down, and answer cool and inconsistent questions. It is the success of his campaign so far which has brought him to this happy but awkward moment. I watched him yesterday being politely grilled by Jimmy Young and noticed that the problem is security. In Mr Kinnock's camp there is always a hint of anxiety about Mr Kinnock. How will he perform? How far need he be protected? Ashdown's energy melts such hesitation.

An impression of rapid movement is vital to the Ashdown Method. But when the music stops, the contestants have to sit down, and there are not enough chairs. The game moves to a new phase. It should prove interesting.

## Gould hits back with interest

By JILL SHERMAN AND RACHEL KELLY

## CAMPAIGN QUOTES

"Mr Major launched his campaign by calling us Paddy's roundabout. Well here we are and the swings are all to the Liberal Democrats!"

— Paddy Ashdown

"Thank you, Paddy — don't call us, we'll call you!"

— Michael Heseltine on the Lib Dem leader

"It is as if Dickens's Mr Micawber is left hanging around with Beckett's Godot."

— Neil Kinnock claiming the government is waiting for something to turn up

"I don't really know what they stand for. I saw George in an interview and he wasn't really sure what they stood for either."

— Ringo Starr on George Harrison's support for the Natural Law Party

## Lib Dems soften stance on terms

By SHEILA GUNN, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

PADDY Ashdown yesterday hinted at a softening in his terms for a hung parliament by disclosing that he might be prepared to buttress a minority government without a commitment to voting reform.

Speaking on BBC's *Election Call* programme, the Liberal Democrat leader maintained that he was prepared to bring down a minority Conservative or Labour government but he could not give an "in all circumstances

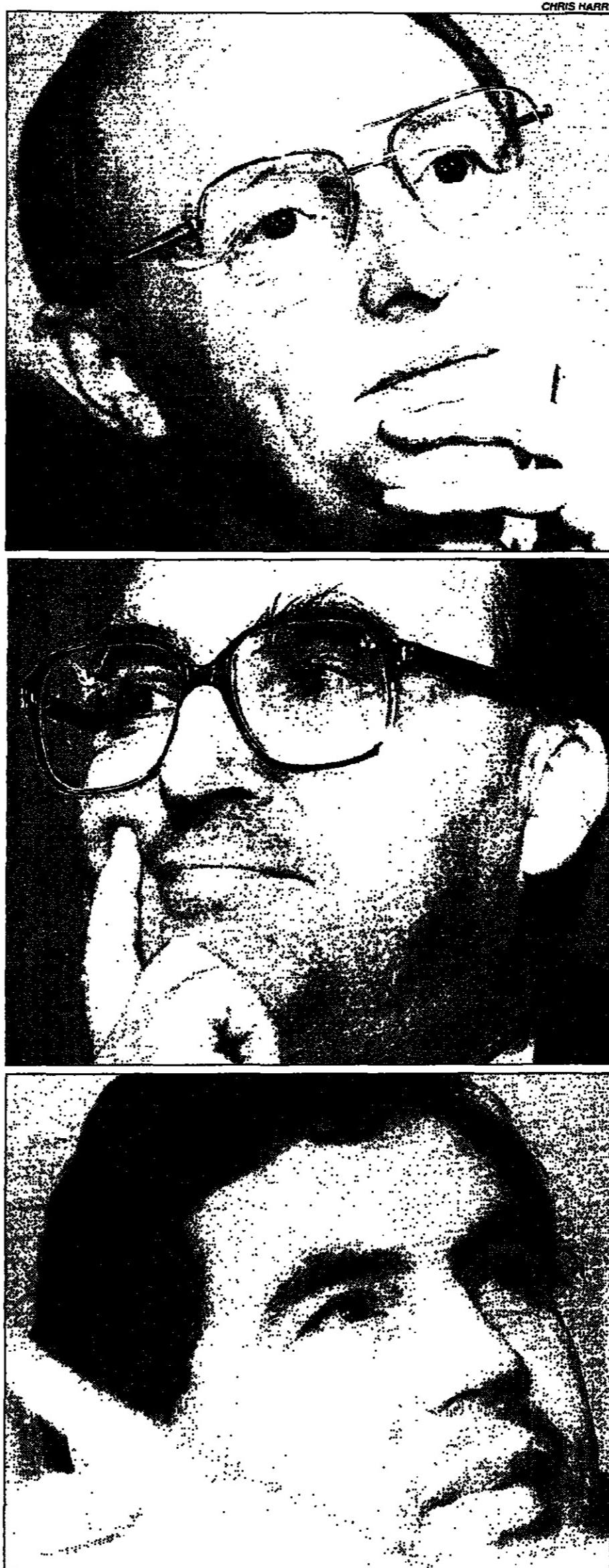
undertaking". Mr Ashdown said: "You will understand sensible people don't close every option. Let us assume that the country was on the edge of war, a major crisis for instance with Libya. Let us assume that the pound was dropping like a stone and there was a major financial crisis in Britain. Obviously everybody has to do what they think is right and in the circumstances for the country's good."

The first sign of a willingness to compromise on his PR-or-no-deal stance reflects doubts within the party's ranks at bringing down a minority Labour government and provoking a second election in the depths of a recession and a broadly acceptable Queen's speech.

Earlier at a London press conference Mr Ashdown said that he did not anticipate his telephone ringing on Friday with an invitation from Neil Kinnock or John Major to talk on a coalition government. "If the phone does not ring that is nothing beyond what we have in our working hypothesis. We have not worked on the basis that the phone is going to ring the moment the polls close." With three days left, it was clear that the voters did not want either the Conservatives or Labour to win the election outright.

Mr Ashdown returned to Richmond upon Thames, one of the party's most winnable seats, to urge voters to weather more attacks on the Liberal Democrats from the other parties. "Our opponents will distort our policies and misrepresent our words," he told a rally. "They will try to frighten voters back to the old parties. And, best of all, the Labour party will say that we are really like the Tories, and the Tories will say that we are really like Labour."

Mr Ashdown went on to accuse the Tories of being interested in success only for the richest, the sharpest and of never letting people get on their own achievements.



Anxious wait: Neil Kinnock, John Smith and Gordon Brown, three men with high hopes, waiting patiently at yesterday's Labour press conference



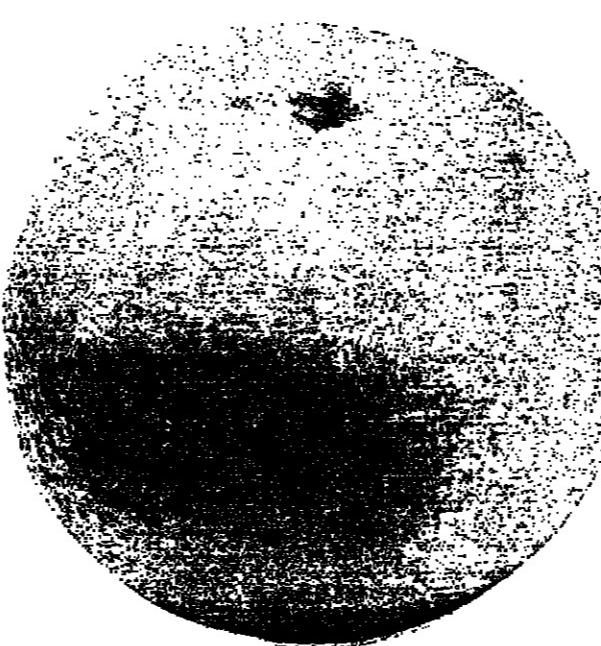
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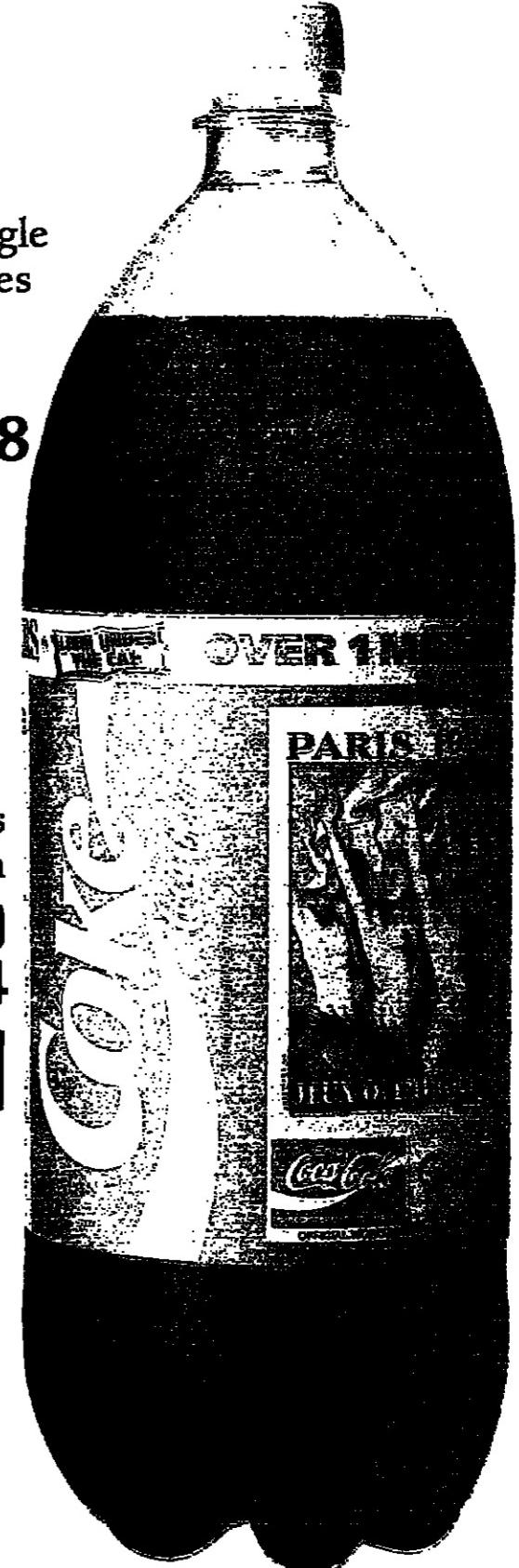
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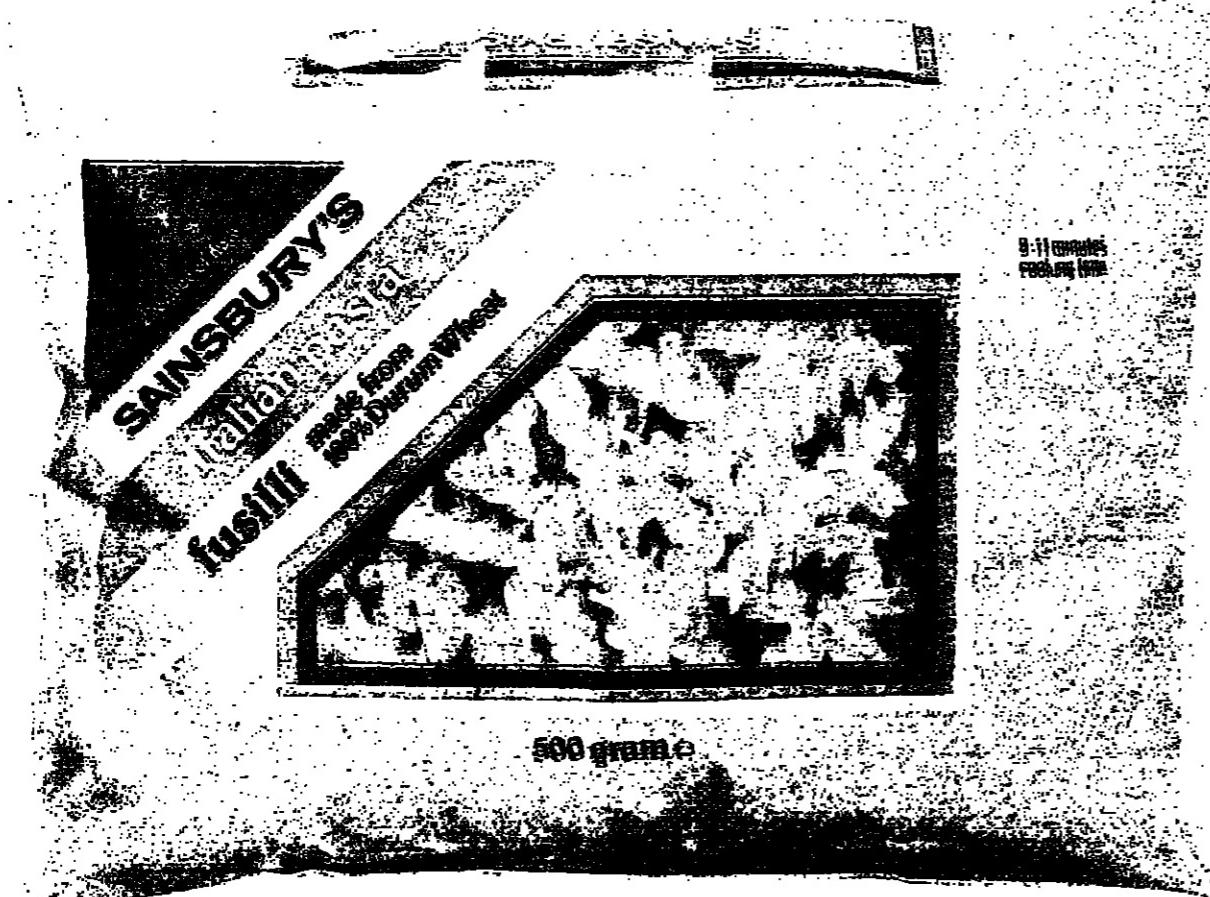
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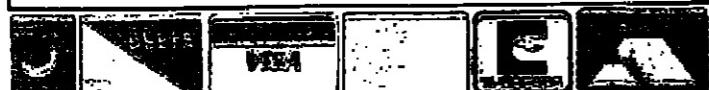
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Constituency profiles: party extroverts strive to capture the voters' attention

## Mr Janner and his actress friend tiptoe round town

BY BILL FROST

**AN ELDERLY** man in a trilby hat and very high dudgeon waved his walking stick angrily at the Labour candidate for Leicester West and his celebrity supporter yesterday as they began a stately progress around the Co-Op in Narborough Road. "You've got no right to molest us while we're shopping. I only came in for some bacon. Is there no peace from you lot?" the pensioner snarled.

Greville Janner took his famous actress guest firmly by the arm and hurried from canned soups to fresh vegetables. "I know her, I know her. It's Valerie Singleton from Blue Peter," trilled an old lady fingering the leeks. The actress beetled her brow. "No, no! Prunella Scales actually," she explains to the assembled audience with icy firmness.

Mr Janner meanwhile was performing for shoppers near the black treacle and golden syrup shelf. "Just you wait, when Neil Kinnock is prime minister the sun will shine on us. Now come and meet the most famous actress in the country," he insisted, before propelling another pensioner in the general direction of the star attraction.

Back on board the battle bus, the Labour candidate took up his microphone and addressed rain-drenched shoppers through a deafeningly powerful public address system. "It's a lovely day," Mr Janner bellowed. "A lovely day for Labour on Thursday. Lady in green with the pram, Janner here in Leicester West!"

The terrified woman

**LEICESTER WEST**  
1987 result: G E Janner (Lab) 22,156 (44.5 per cent); J S W Cooper (C) 20,955 (42.1); W Edgar (SDP/All) 6,708 (13.5). Labour majority: 1,201 (2.4).

clutched her chest and looked up as if expecting to see an alien spacecraft hovering overhead.

"Do turn it down Greville," the Labour candidate's wife, Myra, said a touch irritably. "When the volume is up so high it just distorts."

Mr Janner, gripping the microphone tightly, seemed not to have heard. His next blow through the speakers was even louder, ending in an anguish howl of feedback worthy of the late rock guitarist Jimi Hendrix. A young man with a pony tail shoves his hands over his ears and then gestures rudely at the battle bus.

"Greville Janner and Prunella Scales, the famous actress, here at the post office," rumbles the speaker on the roof of the campaign bus parked at the roadside. Once inside the post office, Mr Janner grabbed a beaming baby and kissed her for the camera. "It's his granddaughter. She loves the attention, she's a Janner," explained Laura Janner-Klausner, the child's mother.

As photographers demanded a close-up — "Pru arm round Greville and give me a big kiss luv" — Ms Scales said that she felt uncomfortable on the campaign trail. "It's very embarrassing.

Striding through a shopping centre, Prunella Scales was suddenly gripped by doubt. "Do you think this sort of thing does any good? I don't know," she asks anxiously. Before Ms Scales could be reassured, two uniformed security guards came between the snappers and their photo opportunity.

"Do you want the bad news or the worse news, Mr Janner?" one of the guards asked. "No photos here and no interviews either. That's the rules."

While his campaign team flagged visibly, the Labour candidate's energy and enthusiasm blossomed yesterday. Leicester West is a marginal and Labour's majority over the Tories last time was only 1,201. "We've lost 3,000 from the electoral roll, largely because of poll tax. Most of them would have been Labour voters," Mr Janner said.

"It's a lovely day today," the Labour candidate crooned as his battle bus, escorted now by a corporation dustcart sounding the horn in support, drew to a halt at another shopping arcade.

but as long as it makes people vote Labour, I don't care," she sighed.

An unshaven man in track suit bottoms and a lumberjack's cap offered Mr Janner some fashion tips. "Get yourself an astrakhan coat with a big fur collar so you look like an MP. And by the way, when you get back to Parliament, support hanging next time it comes up," he advised. "As long as you vote for me, we'll discuss that later," replied the Labour candidate.

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Singing in the rain: Prunella Scales electioneering for Greville Janner, the Labour candidate, in the rainswept streets of Leicester yesterday

Suburban waverers get short shrift from high-octane diarist

## Sutton stumped by Lady Olga

**FOR THE** election campaign, Lady Olga Maitland, the former *Sunday Express* diarist, has turned her anti-CND group, Women and Families for Defence, into an anti-Labour group, Women and Families for Canvassing.

Lady Olga campaigns en famille. Hubby, Robin, and their three children, Alastair, Camilla and Fergus, all knock eagerly on the reproduction Georgian doors of Sutton and Cheam, the safe Tory seat that has landed in Lady Olga's lap after years of being spurned by less daring Conservative selection committees.

"Have you done No 46, Camilla?" the MP-to-be asks her daughter. Fergus shouts across to Robin, who orchestrates the leafleting campaign with the bossy harumphing of a drill sergeant, that "No 46 is for us". The operation is like some bizarre form of family picnic. You would not be all that surprised if Lady Olga gathered up her brood on the corner of Benthill Avenue, produced a flask of tea and some fish paste sandwiches from a Tupperware box and settled the family down for a rest and snack.

Then it would be off again, up and down the streets at a frantic running pace, as if canvassing were one of the competitions in *It's a Knockout* and Lady Olga was playing her Joker Card, hoping for double points. Sir Alfred Sherman, the rightwinger from the Tory think tank and "an old chum", has come

**The journalist Lady Olga Maitland has enlisted her entire family in her campaign. Joe Joseph tried to keep up**

along for the afternoon but leaves half-way through, deciding either that Lady Olga has mistakenly joined a training camp for the Barcelona Olympics.

Doorstep waverers get short shrift.

"I hope we can count on your support on Thursday."

"I'm not sure," comes a timid reply from a Don't Know.

"Do you want Neil Kin-

nock?" asks Lady Olga, in the

**1987 result:** D N Macmillan (C) 29,710 (60.8 per cent); R D Greig (L/All) 13,992 (28.6); L Monk (Lab) 5,202 (10.6). Conservative majority: 15,718 (32.1 per cent).

tone of voice that you might use to ask someone the question: "Are you some kind of pervert?"

As we run up the street, past Greenshaw High School, she tells us that it is one of the only comprehensive schools in the area and Fergus asks her to explain the difference between a grammar school and a comprehensive. Since she plans to make education and defence two of her prime passions in parlia-

ment, we look forward to the reply. "A grammar school is somewhere where they take students who go on to take A-Levels. At comprehensives they take all different kinds of students, some of whom do not take A-levels." Now you know.

Sheltering under a huge "Free Kuwait" umbrella, Lady Olga says she is "raring to go to parliament, but that she is "not going to go in first". I want to learn about the ropes. I won't be a precocious enfant terrible. I want to be a serious parliamentarian. I don't want to become a circus act. It's too important for that. I don't want to be another Edwina Currie. But I won't be silent.

"I miss the *Sunday Express*. But I hope to continue freelance writing. One of the things, with all the writing I have to do now for political speeches or election addresses, is that it comes very easily."

This might give you the impression that her political speeches and election addresses are filled with the same social chit-chat, gossip about minor celebrities and even more minor royals, and party guest lists that fattened her *Sunday Express* columns. But in fact Lady Olga's elec-

tion leaflets carry a snipe about Neil Kinnock and the message that "We don't have to choose between local and best — with Olga Maitland we can have both", along with a group photo of the Women and Families for Canvassing team. At each doorstep, the leaflets emerge from under her poncho with the same flourish that Lee Van Cleef displays when he whips a Colt 45 from under his poncho in old spaghetti westerns.

"There's no taste locally for Neil Kinnock," she confides over lunch in the Bunch Of Grapes pub, as if he were some exotic flavour of Haagen-Dazs ice cream that was far too obviously fancy for the down-to-earth people of Sutton.

She has gotten to know the people of Sutton very well, visiting the constituency almost every day since being selected last September. She says there is still much resentment among local Conservatives over the fact that Sir Neil Macfarlane, her predecessor, backed Michael Heseltine against Mrs Thatcher. To show that she wants to make amends and that she takes her new charges seriously she has promised to buy a small place in the constituency, making her the first person ever to choose Sutton as the site for a pied-à-terre. So next time you drive past and you see a lady straightening the nets in the living room nets, give her a honk. It'll probably be Olga.

He posed with the two can-

didates in one of the ride's carriages, but after a hurried lunch of chicken and soup must have calculated shrewdly that there was potentially more to lose than to gain from the photo-opportunity. He ruled out enduring the four-minute trip launched in 1988 by Eddie the Eagle Edwards and the British bobsleigh team. Never mind that Kenneth Baker, without Mr Heseltine's macho reputation to maintain, had ridden the Avalanche with his wife when the Tory party conference was last in town or that Doris Compton, aged 89, chairman and owner of the pleasure beach, had hurtled round the stomach-churning bends of the Sutton.

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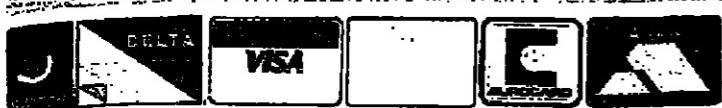
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## Jittery Ulster unionists launch campaign against Labour's McNamara



McNamara: pledged to honour agreements

WITH a Labour government looking increasingly likely, Ulster Unionists have started a vilification campaign against the man they believe could become the next Northern Ireland secretary, Kevin McNamara, Labour's Ulster spokesman.

In a message to Neil Kinnock the Unionists claimed that Mr McNamara's nationalist views and close identification with the party's policy commitment to a united Ireland by consent, would seriously damage the chances of progress in any further inter-party talks on the future of Northern Ireland.

Mr McNamara remained cool in the face of this predict-

**Edward Gorman** examines unionist claims that the shadow Ulster secretary would work towards a united Ireland

able onslaught. He underlined that Labour was committed to honouring all previous agreements and in particular Article 1 of the Anglo-Irish agreement, which affirms that change in the status of Northern Ireland can come about only with the consent of the majority living there.

At the weekend Jim Molynex, Ulster Unionist leader, said that if Mr McNamara turned up at Stormont, he would not ignore him but would attempt to deal directly

with Mr Kinnock. "It's not just because of a distrust of Mr McNamara's policies," he said. "There are certain other reasons which it wouldn't be fair to state publicly. Just put it under the heading of trust and confidence."

Other members of his party, less constrained by the responsibilities of leadership, were more candid. John Taylor, defending the Strangford seat, and a possible future leader of the Ulster Unionist party, said: "He's seen as an

Irish republican and as such his presence here would be unwelcome."

Mr Taylor said that Mr McNamara would spend all his time working for a united Ireland against the wishes of the majority in the province.

"His presence will greatly

damage the prospects of the

talks. There would be suspi-

cions from the word go about

his independence and impar-

tiality by the majority

parties."

Officials of the more extreme Democratic Unionist party, described Mr McNamara as a renegade unable to distance himself from explicit or implicit support for the republican movement. There is no evidence to support this

charge. In a radio interview broadcast in Ulster at the weekend Mr McNamara emphasised that he respected the opinions and traditions represented by Unionist leaders and expressed the hope that they would respect his views in the same way.

"I intend, if I get the job, to treat everyone fairly and squarely and to respect their ideas and their aspirations as I hope they will respect other people's," he said.

On the talks, he tried to

head off unionist fears that

they would face a united front of two governments and the Nationalist SDLP all committed to a united Ireland. "We are not seeking to impose any particular Labour

agenda on the talks," he said. "What we want to do is encourage the talks to promote the talks to get agreement." He added that Unionists had never called into question Peter Brooke's impartiality as chairman of the process, in spite of the fact that he "was and is a Unionist".

In reality unionist bluster

might quickly die down, especially if Labour returns to power with a clear majority, though in the case of a minority administration unionists may keep it up, hoping Mr McNamara will be replaced after a second election. The chances of serious progress in the talks are probably slightly diminished under Mr McNamara's stewardship, but they are not very strong anyway.

### Constituency profile: Ron Brown fights on Supporters keep their affection for the devil they know

BY KERRY GILL

THE door in Earl Haig Gardens had hardly opened before the elderly woman behind began telling off Ron Brown for his association with Colonel Gadaffi: "I know you Mr Brown, you're a nice man but I don't like all these meetings with Gadaffi. You should keep away from him." Mr Brown tried to explain that he had seen the colonel solely in the interests of the British community in Libya, but it did little good.

Although the shadow of the Libyan leader has continued to loom over Mr Brown, it has done him rather more good than harm in Edinburgh Leith, where he is fighting to retain his seat having been dumped by the Labour party after his conviction for damaging a former lover's flat.

Most locals yesterday appeared to understand Mr Brown's motives in visiting Libya. None more so than Robert Paton, whose son-in-law Michael King was imprisoned by the colonel, but freed after Mr Brown's intervention. "We tried everybody, all the political leaders, but it was only Ron who took any notice," Mr Paton said.

Mr Brown's posters have enraged the official Labour candidate, Malcolm Chisholm, and his party. The posters declare that Mr Brown, too, is the official Labour candidate. No wonder many voters, particularly the elderly, are confused. Mr Brown, who

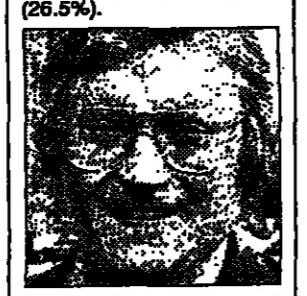
claims that he was not descended but was the victim of an undemocratic ballot organised by Labour's national executive, has taken the case to the Court of Session, Scotland's supreme civil court. He claims to have been "politically blacklisted".

The case is tortuously involved and Mr Brown bravely tried to explain it on the doorsteps. Most of the housewives and pensioners at home yesterday smiled politely and promised him their vote.

Mr Brown tended to play down his strong popular following, saying that "Leithers" backed him because he held by the old tenets of the Labour party.

**EDINBURGH LEITH**

1987 result: R D M Brown (Lab), (below), 21,104 (49.3%); D A Y Menzies (C) 9,777 (22.9%); Mrs S Wells (SDP/All) 7,843 (18.3%); W Morrison (SNP) 4,045 (9.5%). Labour majority: 11,327 (26.5%).
--



### Deselected MP takes a hiding

BY BEN MACINTYRE

AT 11.15am yesterday, John Ernest Douglas Delavallte Browne evaporated. A spokesman would say only that the independent Conservative candidate for Winchester was campaigning somewhere in the city, but claimed not to know where or how he could be contacted.

His mobile telephone was not working, his movements were undecided and his future plans uncertain, she said. On the other hand she could fax him some questions and fax back the replies.

The candidate has good reason to want to avoid direct questions: chief among them being why he is running at all when the party has deselected him and put up an official Conservative candidate, Gerry Malone, a Scottish journalist and former Tory MP for Aberdeen South.

Mr Browne's decision to fight the seat as an independent Conservative prompted a statement from Richard Ryder, the government chief whip, to the effect that in the event of his being re-elected, the Conservative whip would never again be extended to him. "You are no longer welcome as a member of the parliamentary party or any of its committees," Mr Ryder wrote.

The effect of Mr Browne's candidate has produced a split Conservative vote, or at the very least a confused one, in what is an archetypal Tory constituency. The future MP, however, could turn out to be the Liberal Democrat candidate Tony Barron.

As with all former MPs who are defeated in an election, Mr Browne would be entitled to a resettlement grant worth, in his case, about £20,572.

Mr Browne has already survived an attempt to deselect him and saw his majority in 1987 cut from 20,000 to 7,479. Two years ago, he was suspended from the

House for 20 days after his answers concerning his members' interests failed to convince a Commons committee.

Mr Browne still has enough support to disturb his Conservative opponent. "He is even calling himself Conservative on the ballot papers," a spokesman for Mr Malone said.

Mr Browne has offered to settle the matter of who should garner the Conservative vote by drawing straws with his Conservative opponents today.

As he rapped on another door, he asked: "Do you think a lot of the Tories will vote for the Lib Dems?" At that moment the door opened. "Hello, I'm Ron Brown..." The old man, standing in his dressing gown and pyjamas, replied "No thanks," and shut the door. You can't win them all.

**VOX POP** by Peter Barnard

### Real people want to know about policy

Does television insist on a hung Parliament or are we allowed to elect a majority government? The question arises after the past two days, in which we have seen Paddy Ashdown interviewed at length by the professionals and questioned in some depth by mere voters. An interesting difference of emphasis emerges.

On Sunday, Brian Walden introduced his eponymous show, which consisted of an interview with Mr Ashdown, with the words: "It's likely that this Friday your party will hold the balance of power in a hung parliament."

That was an independent television. At the same time, on BBC1, Mr Ashdown was interviewed for more than 15 minutes by Jonathan Dimbleby and spoke about nothing but proportional representation and dealt with a minority government. The whole of Walden concerned itself with PR and deals with a minority government.

Yesterday morning, Mr Ashdown was the guest on BBC1's *Election*

*Call*. Most of the people who phoned in did not ask him about PR; they wanted to know about Liberal Democrat policies. They wanted to know, in short, why they should vote for Paddy Ashdown's party.

Throughout this campaign, there has not been the slightest indication that the electors were about to rush out and vote for PR. Mr Ashdown continually quotes (he did it again yesterday) polls that show a majority of people want "fair voting". Well of course a majority of people want "better education" and a majority of people are against sin. Pollsters ask these questions in isolation. They do not ask you are prepared to vote Liberal Democrat to get "fair voting"?

Therefore even Walden's opening proposition was suspect. Polls may suggest a hung parliament, but the real poll could well produce something different. People often flirt with the third party during a campaign and return to the mainstream on election day. That point was not put to

Mr Ashdown in either of the last two interviews.

Yesterday *Election Call* produced three questions (out of a dozen or so) from the public that were clearly about a hung parliament, including one that I have heard no professional interviewer ask Mr Ashdown: if both main parties offered you proportional representation, which one would you support?

Mr Ashdown replied but did not answer. Perhaps professional interviewers know he will not, but there must be many voters who would like an answer. Apparently they will only get it after the electors have produced the hung parliament that television seems to be so anxious to bring about.

One sometimes wonders if all the effort that goes into setting up electronic studios and other whiz-bang election gadgetry is regarded as something of a waste, unless it can be wheeled out twice in the same year. Perish the thought.

**Media, L&T section page 7**



Uphill task: Clement Attlee campaigning in 1945 and his great niece Cath Attlee, who is standing in Windsor and Maidenhead. The Tories have a 17,826 majority, leaving her little hope of following in the former Labour prime minister's footsteps



### Labour maintains lead in marginals

## History stacks odds against last minute swing to Major

BY ROBIN OAKLEY, POLITICAL EDITOR

JOHN Major may now be pursuing an unattainable goal. If the Conservatives are to make a sufficient recovery in the last two days of the campaign to return to government they will have to inspire a movement in public opinion greater than that achieved in nine of the past ten general election campaigns.

No party in government has been known in postwar elections to add to its support during the final week of a campaign and in most recent elections the Conservatives have had a lesser result on the day than in the previous weekend's polls. A series of five opinion polls in Sunday's

newspapers averaged out at Labour 39.8 per cent, Conservatives 36.9, and Liberal Democrats 19.

A survey of elections from 1955 to the present, conducted by Bob Worcester, chairman of Mori, shows that in four of the contests (1955, 1964, 1966 and October 1974) there was no movement in Conservative support from the beginning to the end of the campaign.

In two of the contests (February 1974 and 1983) there was a swing of 0.5 per cent

against the party during the campaign; in one (1987, when there was a big Conservative lead) the swing was minus 1 per cent; in 1959 it

was minus 1.5 per cent and in 1979 minus 3 per cent. Only in 1970, the year of Edward Heath's victory, when the movement was a hefty 5 per cent, was there a campaign swing in favour of the Conservatives of sufficient magnitude to turn the present Tory standing in the polls to an election-winning position.

The Conservatives' difficulty in seeking re-election against the background of recession is underlined by the fact that three in ten people

say that they or members of their immediate family have experienced unemployment or redundancy in the past six months. A Mori poll, conducted from March 20-24, found that 34 per cent of people intending to vote Labour had personal or family experience of unemployment as had 28 per cent of those intending to vote Liberal Democrat and 26 per cent of those backing the Tories.

Conservatives are arguing that the party is holding its own in marginal seats while Labour is stacking up extra votes in its traditional strongholds. But there is little support for that theory in the latest Mori survey of ten northern and Midlands marginal seats for Yorkshire Television's *Calendar* programme.

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Mr interviewed a total of 1,057 adults on April 3-4 in the ten Tory-held marginals. The survey measured party support at Labour 47 per cent, Conservatives 36 per cent, Liberal Democrats 16 per cent and others 1 per cent.

Across the same ten seats at the general election in 1987 party support was Labour 35 per cent, Conservatives 44 per cent, Alliance 20 per cent and others 1 per cent (compared with a national standing of Conservatives 43 per cent, Labour 32 per cent, Alliance 23 per cent and others 2 per cent).

Reflecting a pattern very similar to that of nationwide polls, Labour's vote has improved by one point over the fortnight of campaigning. Conservative support has dropped 2 points and that of the Liberal Democrats risen two points.

Compared to the 1987 election result there has been a swing of 10 per cent to Labour in Glasgow Pollok against 27 per cent backing for Jimmy Dunnachie, the sitting Labour candidate.

At his second and final news conference in Saughton prison, Edinburgh, Mr Sheridan said that the figures were based on canvass returns from over 19,000 voters. His campaign has taken on the subtitle "Send Tommy from prison to Parliament", and he hopes to cause as big an upset to Labour in Glasgow as did Jim Sillars, the Scottish National Party deputy leader, when he wrested Govan from Labour in November 1988.

**YORKSHIRE AREA TORY MARGINALS**

### Scotland

## Cost of Tory policy too high, says church

BY KERRY GILL

ONE of the most influential of the Church of Scotland's committees has delivered a stinging criticism of the government's economic policies, claiming that although they have reduced inflation, the human cost has been "unacceptable in a civilised and caring society".

The government must accept the responsibility of initiating steps to encourage the redeployment and, in some cases, retraining of defence workers in order that their skills may be used in non-military employment."

The committee questioned top salary increases, some of which it described as astonishing. It asked whether the public could have any confidence in people who defended the idea that senior management would take responsibility only in return for "these enormous sums".

Meanwhile, Tom King, the defence secretary, who was in Scotland, warned the public not to trust Labour and Liberal Democrat defence policies, which differed from constituency to constituency, audience to audience. "When a Labour spokesman departs," he said, "a Liberal Democrat arrives bearing the same two-faced message. Trust us, they say, your jobs or local defence interests will be safe with us. From the Labour party committed to 27 per cent cuts this is bad enough. From the Lib Dems, who are aiming for 50 per cent cuts, it is twice as cynical."

Later, in northeast Scotland, Mr King continued his criticism of the opposition parties' defence policies. The nationalisation, he said, would leave Scotland no better defended than Austria or Finland. RAF Lossiemouth and RAF Kinloss, key Nato bases, would be lost and with them many local jobs.

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Sleep deprivation

## Fatigue robs politicians of their edge

BY DR THOMAS STUTTAFORD

BEFORE the invention of television few voters had the opportunity to see their politicians at close quarters. If candidates were suffering from sleep deprivation the electorate at large did not know. Now when voters look at the huge bags under Chris Patten's eyes, they see that politics during an election is a 24-hour a day slog.

Politicians are used to late night sittings in the House of Commons for crucial divisions but their work seldom demands that they appear daily in front of the cameras at 7am. This is beginning to show in their haggard faces. Worse still, they are obliged to appear until 2am the next morning defending their party's gaffes of the previous day. Is it surprising that they seem slow off the mark?

The Tories have especially been blamed for missing their cue over Labour's alternative budget. The dependence on civil servants after 13 years in power was blamed for the debacle. But was it really because Mr Patten, the party chairman, was too busy commuting from London to his Bath constituency while, by his own admission, waking up after three hours' sleep screaming about the progress of the campaign?

The average sleep requirement is 7½ to 8 hours. Too much or too little sleep is associated with increased mortality and morbidity. Younger people need more sleep than those who are older but there are wide variations. Winston Churchill abandoned the standard sleep pattern and ate, slept and worked at times to suit himself. Margaret Thatcher trained herself to need little sleep, but even she on a long trip once forgot which country she was in. On another occasion, an overtired minis-

At grassroots level, the demands on a candidate can seem never ending. Houses, hospitals, factories, schools and public houses all have to be visited and, even after the evening's last meeting, there are the workers on night shifts to be canvassed. Between the late night assessment of the day's events and early morning canvassing of bus queues and railway station platforms there is little time to rest.

Sleep is not just an inert state in which the psyche is out of touch with the world, it is an active process in which the brain continues to work. Research has shown that there are two different patterns of sleep, slow wave in which there are four levels of somnolence, and rapid eye movement which is the dream laden sleep.

Evidence suggests that people need a certain total amount of sleep, and that about 25 per cent of that should be rapid eye movement sleep. If patients, or politicians, are deprived of either they become irritable and increasingly slow witted. Later they may become paranoid and depressed.

Sleep deprivation also causes physical changes. The autonomic control of the blood vessels may be poor, hence, in part, the red eyes, the clammy, sweaty, swollen feet, and the pale but glowing face of the tired politician.



### Gamblers bet to shorten party odds

AN ANONYMOUS first-time punter has wagered £14,000 on the Conservatives retaining an overall majority this week, the largest bet taken during the campaign.

His potential winnings of £150,000 are overshadowed by the Liberal Democrat supporter who has pledged £2,000 in an attempt to reverse the odds and further boost the party's ratings in the polls. Daniel Victor, from North London, stands to make £500,000 if the Liberal

Ladbrokes latest odds on number of Lib Dem seats:

NIL	1.000/1
1-5	100-1
6-10	25/1
11-15	16/1
16-20	4/1
21-25	9/4
26-30	9/4
31-35	4/1
36-40	16/1
41-45	40/1
46-50	45/1
51-55	50/1
60+	50/1

Democrats confound history and take the 304 new seats they need to win outright.

The bookmakers have refused to be swayed and this weekend mirrored the latest opinion polls. The odds on a hung parliament fell to 8:13 and the odds on Labour emerging as the largest party were cut to 4:11, the shortest any party has enjoyed during the campaign.

Mr Victor, whose gamble was calculated to effect the kind of rise the Liberal Democrats showed in yesterday's opinion polls by triggering a cut in the bookmakers' odds, said he was pleased with the results so far, despite his party standing at odds of 400:1 against winning the most seats.

A professional punter, Mr Victor placed his wager in the hope that other Liberal



World-weary: the strain of round-the-clock electioneering is evident on the face of Chris Patten, who has been masterminding the Tory campaign

### JAPANESE VIEW by Katsuji Miyazaki

## Slow start is Britain's way

An election in a foreign country provides a feast for the political journalist. We Japanese learnt, imported and even smuggled some ingredients of the Westminster system into our Diet, or so I was taught. These ideas came to Japan over 100 years ago, along with British industrial technology, then the world's finest.

However, my first experience of a general election here gives me a sense of living in the looking glass world. Our "Westminster" system seems very different from the British beast.

Even before the campaign, I started to wonder. The day the election date was announced, I rang an MP to ask him how and when his campaign would start. I was told, "Well my posters and campaign literature are still at the printers and it will be at least ten days, or so before things really get under way."

I had been expecting something like the first day of a Japanese campaign. In the early morning, the candidate and a crowd of his (or her) supporters gather at the candidate's election office for the campaign kick-off. The candidate makes a brief speech; the crowd ebullient, high-spirited with sake. Then the cavalcade moves out, canvassing on the campaign trail. My MP friend was right, of course. On the first day of the campaign, nothing happened, only the Common Crier and Serjeant at Arms of the City of London shouting the decree of dissolution from the steps of the Royal Exchange.

The same evening, I watched John Major on television, strolling in Hertfordshire, smiling that Major smile. That also surprised me. Our leaders rarely campaign for themselves. Their duty is to devote themselves to the party's cause: *noblesse oblige*.

Moreover, on his stroll, he accepted a side of smoked salmon from a supporter! A politician accepting a gift! On television! In front of many journalists!

In Japan we tend to assume that people offering presents to politicians have ulterior motives. They do.

Even more incredible to a Japanese observer is the fact that the British electorate seems to believe what politicians say during the election. All Japanese know

the reality of life: the politicians often lie, or at least conceal the truth.

That is why I am amazed by the fact that opposition leaders are insisting on a tax increase. Hail to John Smith and his party: brave enough to announce tax increases before the election.

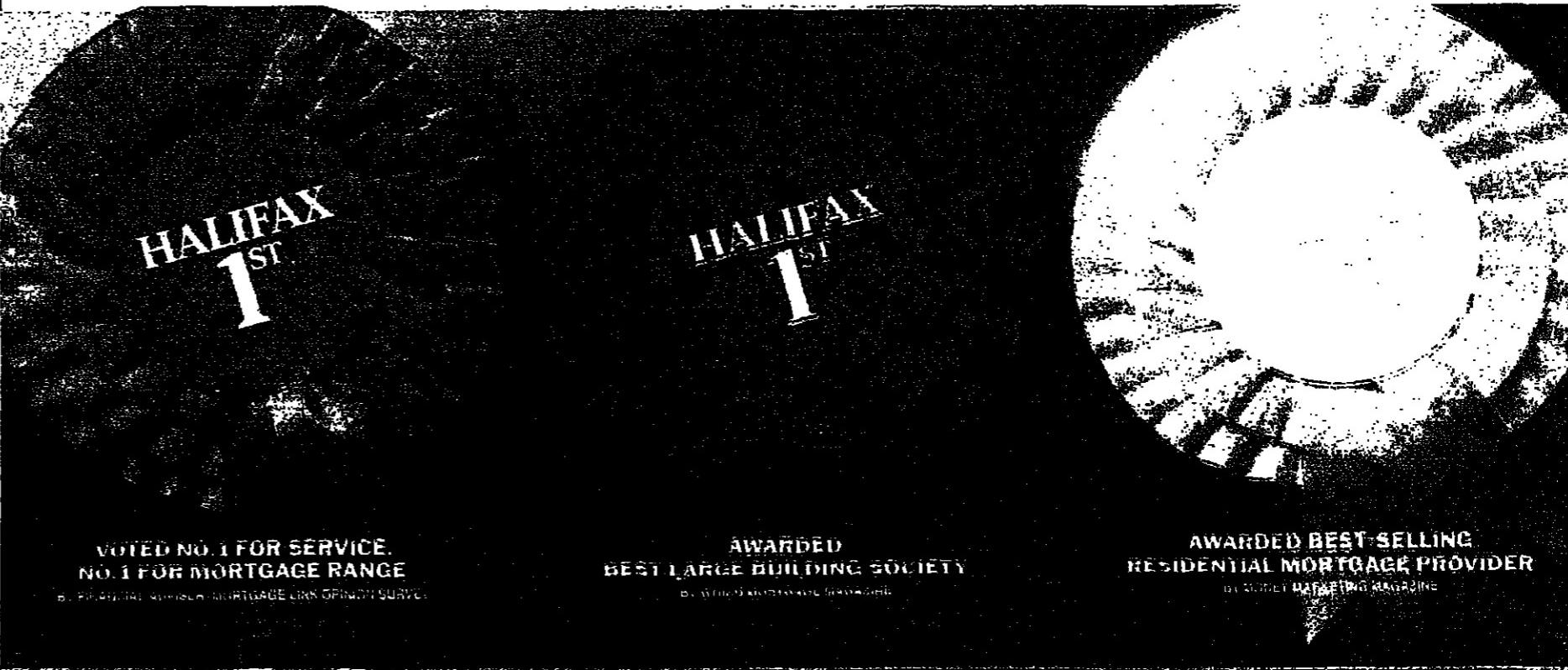
Money is another matter. Legal limits on campaign spending seem to be observed here. Japanese law also limits spending. But candidates or their authorised agents who are arrested for bribing the voters with sake and dinner parties are regarded as rather amateurish.

In Britain, the election process has been hijacked by the party leaders, aided and abetted by the national media. Television has removed the personal touch and devalued the role of the candidates. Perhaps we see this reflected in Parliament with strong leaders now leading sheepish MPs.

In Japan, candidates must still sweat and strain among their grassroots. When they arrive in parliament, they are more confident and expect to have more say in the party and in national politics.

Katsuji Miyazaki is European editor of Asahi Shim bun and chief of its London bureau.

# AT LAST, THREE POLLS WITH A CLEAR LEADER.



It's enough to restore one's faith in opinion polls. Asked to choose from a bewildering line-up of candidates, three independent surveys all came to exactly the same conclusion.

That when it comes to helping make mortgages less taxing, and to having the nation's confidence, it's a very firm 'X' for Halifax Building Society.

We've been voted Best Large Building Society by Which Mortgage magazine, number one for service and range by

Financial Adviser/Mortgage Link and Best Retail Mortgage Provider in the Money Marketing Awards.

Naturally we're very pleased, but not, we admit, entirely surprised. The swingometer has been pointing our way for some time as, last year, more people came to us for more mortgages than to any other building society.

So if you'd like a little extra help with your mortgage, perhaps you, too, should elect to visit the Halifax.



Get a little extra help.

ANY HOME LOAN MUST BE SECURED BY A MORTGAGE. ALL LOANS ARE SUBJECT TO A SATISFACTORY APPRAISAL OF STATUS AND FINANCIAL STANDING AND ARE ONLY AVAILABLE TO PERSONS AGED 18 OR OVER. WRITTEN QUOTATIONS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST FROM YOUR LOCAL OFFICE OR HALIFAX BUILDING SOCIETY, TRINITY ROAD, HALIFAX, WEST YORKSHIRE HX1 2RG.  
YOUR HOME IS AT RISK IF YOU DO NOT KEEP UP REPAYMENTS ON A MORTGAGE OR OTHER LOAN SECURED ON IT.

Regional party wounds Rome coalition

## League splits mould of Italian politics

FROM JOHN PHILLIPS IN ROME

UMBERTO Bossi, the fiery leader of the League of the North, saw his dream of a new *riscoramento* come true yesterday as northern voters inflicted a humiliating defeat on the ruling Christian Democrat party.

Giulio Andreotti, the prime minister, remained barricaded in his office at the Palazzo Chigi for most of the day as general election results rolled in. It was left to an ash-faced Christian Democrat spokesman, Enzo Carra, to concede that the projection was a political earthquake not only for the Christian Democrats but the political system as a whole.

Christian Democrat strategists clutched at straws as computer projections of the party vote for the chamber of deputies reached 29 per cent, compared with 26 per cent in the senate. Commentators said it was unthinkable that Signor Andreotti would be able to revive his discredited four-party coalition together with Socialists, Social Democrats and Liberals. First results for the chamber showed the four parties together getting 48 per cent of the vote.

First projections show the League of the North garnering 9.3 per cent of the vote in the chamber, which would give it up to 80 seats com-

pared to only one in 1987. Signor Bossi, aged 50, sporting his long black and grey locks recalling his past as an unsuccessful rock singer, looked stunned by the extent of his success. He immediately held out the prospect of the league joining a future government if the traditional parties were willing to undertake radical devolutionist reforms. "It depends whether the state wants to remain centralist or to go towards the future, that is to say toward federalism," he said.

Political experts said a more palatable prospect for the Christian Democrats in the horse-trading that will begin during informal contacts today, would be to create a *governamento* that would bring into office both the Republicans, who left the government last year, and the former communist Democratic Party of the Left (PDS). First projections showed the Republican vote as relatively disappointing for the chamber, with only 4.5 per cent compared to a target of 6 per cent. The PDS vote in the chamber was within the range expected at 16.4 per cent.

Signor Carra held out an olive branch to the PDS. "One must see if the PDS will follow the extremist positions on its left or if instead it will choose to enter into a different orbit."

Republican leaders last night made clear that only a dramatic change in attitude by the Christian Democrats to reform the electoral system and political institutions could tempt them back into government. The shock in Christian Democrat circles was most evident on TG-1, the state-run television channel controlled by their party. Bruno Vespa looked aghast as guests on his programme asked whether the Montecitorio parliament building would become a fractured "Polish Diet."

It was a different story for Lelio Orlando, the former Christian Democrat mayor of Palermo, who saw his newly-founded anti-mafia party, the Rete (Network), win a significant foothold in parliament with about 2 per cent of the vote. Signor Orlando predicted that "one will be able to construct a new type of politics".

There is little doubt that Italy faces weeks of uncertainty if not chaos with the Christian Democrats badly shaken by the huge protest against its long-term inability to address political corruption, mafia crime and economic problems. While the Christian Democrat defeat in the lower chamber was more contained than in the senate, the reverse appeared to be true for the Socialists who saw their vote in the chamber of deputies fall from 14 to 13 per cent, according to first projections. It remained to be seen whether Bettino Craxi, the Socialist leader, would keep a pledge to deliver the keynote speech on the economy, rather than delegate it to his reform chief, Vittorio Gaidar, was approved to resign if his party's showing fell below 14 per cent.

Historic defeat, page 1  
Leading article, page 17

Asimov adapted the classics and history plays more to people of higher intelligence than any other literature. Asimov's hallmark was clarity and a playful approach that became stronger after a bout of heart disease a decade ago left him convinced of the ability of humanity to survive. He was serious about his science and held a professorship of biochemistry at Boston university until his death, but he never attempted to bamboozle. He broke his rules of plausibility only in the *Fantastic Voyage*, about an expedition of miniaturised surgeons inside the bloodstream of a dying man. For his plots, Asimov always said he simply adapted history and the classics.

Obituary, page 19

## Creator of robot ethics dies of heart failure

FROM CHARLES BREMNER IN NEW YORK

ISAAC Asimov, the patriarch of modern science fiction, founder of robot ethics and one of the most prolific authors in history, died of heart and kidney failure in New York yesterday. He was 72.

Only a week ago, the Russian-born writer who dreamed up galactic empires and turned out works on almost everything from religion to Shakespeare, published his 468th book, *Asimov Laughs Again*, a collection of his favourite jokes and anecdotes. It concluded with a characteristically sunny note: "No matter what happens now, I've had a good life and I'm satisfied."

A compulsive worker who spent eight hours a day composing in his Manhattan flat, Asimov did fail to fulfil his oft-expressed wish to end his days "face down on my typewriter".

A biochemist by training, Asimov had traversed over the world of science fiction since the early 1950s when he produced a collection of stories which, long before artificial intelligence or high-speed computers, transformed the way the world thought about sentient machines. Rather than the evil monsters envisaged by Hollywood and the pioneers of sci-fi, Asimov's machines were placed at the service of humanity. His three laws of robotics, still largely followed in the genre, stated: a robot may not injure a human being or, through inaction, allow humanity to come to harm; a robot must obey the orders given it by human beings; a robot must protect its existence, as long as such protection does not conflict with the first or second law.

In 1984, Asimov added a fourth law, which he called "zeroeth", which allowed for a future in which robots could acquire political power. Taking precedence

Obituary, page 19



Making her mark: Alessandra Mussolini, a candidate of the neo-fascist Italian Movement, casting her vote. The party was projected to make gains

## Yeltsin survives opening skirmishes in congress

FROM MARY DEJEVSKY IN MOSCOW

ON THE opening day of the Russian Congress of People's Deputies, President Yeltsin and his radical Russian government managed to beat off their first formal challenge from the opposition. However, much of the time was spent in fruitless skirmishing over the agenda, producing a succession of votes which showed just how carefully Mr Yeltsin must still proceed.

Voting on three key questions illustrated the current balance of forces in Russia's supreme legislature. A call from the opposition to trim the harshest aspects of his reforms, and measures to increase pensions, wages and help for agriculture, was easily ratified over the Black Sea fleet and the dispatch of Aleksandr Rutskoi, his vice-president to the mainly Russian-populated Crimea and Trans-Dniester region at the weekend may also have been intended in part, if not mainly, to garner votes.

Fortunately for Mr Yeltsin, the opposition is disunited, although more than 300 deputies from six separate factions have formed an alliance to strengthen their position for the duration of the current congress.

As the voting showed, there is also a significant group which is sharply critical of the government, but not yet to the point where they want to oust it. Many of these deputies are genuinely motivated less by ideological considerations than by the plight of their constituents as prices rise, the money supply is curbed and jobs are lost.

These are the groups Mr Yeltsin has been trying to placate over the past week with personnel changes,

promises of trimming back the harshest aspects of his reforms, and measures to increase pensions, wages and help for agriculture. His supporters are rating over the Black Sea fleet and the dispatch of Aleksandr Rutskoi, his vice-president to the mainly Russian-populated Crimea and Trans-Dniester region at the weekend may also have been intended in part, if not mainly, to garner votes.

One of the problems facing the radicals is that the full Russian parliament was elected two years ago, before the demise of the Communist party or the Soviet Union. Any attempt to broach the possibility of new elections, however, encounters even more opposition than the current economic reforms, as so many deputies fear they would lose office.

This is the first congress since the disintegration of the Soviet Union, and the first at which Russia's supreme legislature is functioning as the legislature of a fully fledged state. The change in status has not been reflected in any significant change either in the composition of the congress or in its attitudes.

St Nicholas, page 1

## Cossacks find Slav cause to fight for

FROM ROBERT SEELEY  
IN TIRASPOL

THE Druzhba (Friendship) Hotel was once favoured by Soviet anglers fishing on the River Dniester. By last week carousing Russian Cossacks barracked in the dreary guest house had converted it into an armoury of daggers, grenades and Kalashnikovs.

The Cossacks have flocked from the Don, Kuban and Ural regions of Russia to the Slav enclave of Trans-Dniestr where violence has left dozens dead in the former Soviet republic of Moldavia. Yesterday's meeting of foreign ministers from Russia, Ukraine, Moldavia and Romania in the Moldavian capital of Kishinev was a last-ditch attempt to halt the descent into civil war.

Vladimir Kotchenov, a Cossack, said: "We have come here to defend the Russian people." An unemployed lorry driver from a village north of Rostov-on-Don, dressed in a blue, red and green tsarist uniform, he aimed to prove himself worthy of Cossack traditions. "You cannot become a Cossack, you must be born one. Although it is traditional that Cossacks never raise our weapons first, ultimately the only way to prove a true Cossack is in battle."

The Cossacks' romanticism is fanned by boredom with provincial Russian life, the wish for a good scrap and the need for a cause. That belief is in the rebirth of Russian nationalism. Nights in Bender, a frontier town on the Moldavian side of the Dniester, are broken by sniper fire and the rattle of Kalashnikovs as opposing guards pick each other off from behind checkpoints.

Moldavia's government has no army yet, but 4,000 national guardmen are being trained to retake Trans-Dniestr by force, if need be. By the end of April, another 12,000 teenagers will be conscripted into Moldavia's national armed forces.

In Moscow yesterday Aleksandr Rutskoi, the vice-president of Russia, who visited Trans-Dniestr at the weekend, condemned the killings there and blamed the Moldavian government. In a speech to the Russian Congress of People's Deputies calculated to appeal to its strong "Russia first" lobby, he said: "No slogans of independence or sovereignty can justify the deaths of people on both sides in the shooting. Until Russia guarantees the protection of its citizens, wherever they live... there will be military conflicts on the former territory of the Soviet Union. However, he avoided suggesting Russia should take over the region or redraw the border."

**Spies arrested**

Karlshafen: A former East German intelligence officer and an ex-employee of the American mission in Berlin have been arrested on suspicion of spying for the former Soviet Union. The alleged offences were committed prior to unification. (Reuters)

**Sales slump**

Warsaw: Poland's nascent pornographic press has suffered a sharp slump in sales after a boom last year. The decline is variously blamed on stern admonishments from the Catholic Church, competition from video porn or a shortage of cash. (AFP)

**Money matters**

Paris: Michel Sapin, the new French finance minister, said it was not true that he knew nothing about money. He had collected ancient coins since a child and learned about power being founded on a strong currency and heavy coins as in ancient Greece. (Reuters)

**Reptiles found**

Sydney: Two Germans were charged in Darwin with trying to smuggle live snakes and lizards out of Australia after customs officials found the reptiles in packages bound for Germany at Brisbane airport. They could face 10-year sentences. (Reuters)

## Premier loses Baku struggle for power

Moscow: Hassan Hassanova, Azerbaijan's prime minister, has been dismissed in an apparent power struggle in the former Soviet republic. Interfax said yesterday.

The news agency said Mr Hassanova was removed on Sunday by Yusub Mamedov, the acting Azerbaijani president, and appointed as the republic's ambassador to the United Nations. He will be replaced by Feiruz Mustafayev, his deputy.

Tolik Gasimov, a leading member of the republic's Popular Front, said Mr Hassanova was removed to "push him out of the battle for the post of president". The elections are on June 7. (Reuters)

## Speaker picked

Tirana: A former political prisoner, Pjetër Arbnori, has been chosen as speaker of the first democratically elected parliament in Albania since the war. Sali Berisha, the leader of the majority Democratic party, is expected to become president. (Reuters)

## Rail men strike

Amsterdam: Dutch rail workers staged a nationwide strike, bringing rail traffic to a virtual stop, after pay talks broke down. Commuters who took to cars found 60-mile long tailbacks on some of the main highways. (Reuters)

## Candidates fail

Andorra la Vella: Andorra will hold a second round of voting after an inconclusive result in the general election in which candidates failed to obtain majorities. About 82 per cent voted for 60 candidates standing in seven parishes. (Reuters)

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## Far right forces German democrats to rethink immigration

### GERMAN ELECTION RESULTS

Results (1988 in brackets) per cent seats		
Baden-Württemberg		
Turnout	70.3 (71.8)	64 (68)
SPD	39.4 (40.0)	46 (42)
CDU	29.4 (32.0)	45 (-)
Republicans	10.9 (10.0)	15 (-)
Greens	9.5 (7.9)	13 (10)
FDP	5.9 (5.8)	8 (7)
Total		146 (126)
Schleswig-Holstein		
Turnout	71.4 (77.4)	
SPD	46.2 (54.8)	45 (46)
CDU	33.8 (33.3)	32 (27)
DVP	6.3 (0.1)	5 (-)
FDP	5.6 (4.6)	5 (-)
Greens	4.97 (2.9)	1 (-)
SSW**	1.9 (1.7)	1 (1)
Total		89 (74)

\* The Greens were 397 votes short of the total needed to reach the 5 per cent threshold. There is to be a recount next week and if this fails they have enough votes to enter the chamber.

\*\* The SSW is a party for the Danish minority in Schleswig, which has one guaranteed seat in the parliament.

### IMIGRATION TO GERMANY

(1981 to present)			
Percentage granted refugee status	Asylum seekers	Ethnic Germans	East Germans moving to West
1981	7.7	49,391	69,455
1982	6.8	37,423	48,170
1983	22.4	19,737	37,925
1984	25.6	35,278	38,459
1985	24.2	73,832	36,968
1986	15.9	98,650	42,788
1987	9.4	57,379	8,523
1988	8.8	103,329	29,632
1989	5.0	121,318	377,055
1990	4.4	151,063	397,075
1991	6.9	256,112	221,995
1992 (1st qtr)	97,397	47,702	
Total	1,143,858	1,586,788	770,230

Total of asylum seekers and German refugees since 1981 is 3,510,874 (total to June 30, 1990, when currency union between the two Germanies meant this category of resettler was abolished. Since then, however, an average of 1,000 east Germans a week has continued to move west).

Germany's main parties know that a policy on refugees must be found to stop the far right but cannot agree on what it must be, Ian Murray writes from Bonn

question



# Whose secret life is it anyway?

Janet Daley asks whether great men are entitled to posthumous privacy

To whom do your life and its secrets belong? First to yourself and next to your nearest and dearest? The platitudes slip off the tongue easily enough when we talk about the private lives of ordinary people. But what if the life is not a purely "private" one? And whose life is definitely private, anyway? Not a politician's obviously; but what about a great writer? And whatever rules we accept, do they still apply when that life is over? Once we are part of history, does the deuterius of our feelings belong to the world?

In Dublin, an archive of James Joyce's private papers has been released for public examination. What should have been a momentous unlocking of insights into the development of one of the most influential figures in modern literature has provoked protest and disappointment. Missing from the fifty-year-old collection is Joyce's schizophrenic daughter, whose illness was a critical tragedy in his life. Of even more direct relevance to Joyce's artistic production were his wife Nora's erotic letters - thought to be the basis for Molly Bloom's monologues in *Ulysses* - which are also missing.

These absences present very different moral quandaries. Documents about Joyce's daughter have apparently been deliberately withheld by his descendants, who still have control over his estate. But Nora's letters are thought to have been destroyed by her. A family (in the person of a grandson whose authority has become unchallengeable in an Ireland which venerates Joyce) wishes to conceal a painful episode of mental illness: a wife is determined that her own intimate correspondence shall not be revealed. Are they within their rights? Or is James Joyce (and are all the influences which bore upon his genius) now a part of our collective inheritance: the intellectual property of the English-speaking world in whose literature he is a seminal figure?

Protecting the privacy of the living with ludicrous libel laws slides easily into censorship: the open secrets of public and political life remain a closed book to the electorate. Arguments about whether a politician's personal peccadilloes are relevant to his fitness for office are purely academic in Britain. Guarding the secrets of the dead may not have such obviously dire consequences for democracy, but it does threaten historical truth. Authentic knowledge about the past is problematic enough when we are in possession of all the possible evidence. When crucial material is lost about a major political or cultural figure, whatever hope there might have been of piecing together a picture of how things really were is doomed.

The Joyce case is not unique. Peter Ackroyd, T.S. Eliot's biographer, was forced to write without access to private material which Eliot's widow did not release. Ironically, there is a vague in current literary theory for declaring that "context" is irrelevant to the study of literary texts. Some theorists argue that no amount of knowledge about writers' lives adds anything to our understanding of their works. This perverse dogma offers a convenient cover for all those who seek to conceal the unsavoury or the disillusioning. But even without ventur-



James Joyce as drawn by Wyndham Lewis

...and moreover

CRAIG BROWN

Will the world be topsy-turvy on Friday morning? I have had an intimation that there will be the dawning of a new age, and nothing will ever be the same again. As I was going to sleep last night, I found myself transported to a party at which all the great and the good were present. But somehow I realised that no one was quite as expected.

My first inkling that things were higgledy-piggledy came when I heard someone say "... and she always looks absolutely immaculate". It was Edward Heath. I manoeuvred past him to the drinks table. "But mostly tonic please", Senator Edward Kennedy was saying to the barman.

What was happening? Over in the corner, I couldn't help but overhear a political discussion taking place between five very eminent figures. "At least they've got rid of that bloody woman," said Paul Johnson. "In a word," began Neil Kinnock. "No comment," said Sir Nicholas Fairbairn. "You've only yourself to blame," Lord Longford was saying. In another corner of the room, Tony Benn was holding forth. "That's all very well in a perfect world," he said, "but what about the balance of payments deficit?"

But some of the politicians present were more intent on enjoying the party. "Not for me," I overheard Roy Hattersley saying to the trolley waiter. "I've had more than enough." Meanwhile, John Major had everyone in fits of laughter, while Denis

Healey seemed to be apologetically saying, "I do hope I wasn't speaking out of turn," he said.

At this point Edwina Currie and Princess Michael of Kent came to the door. "After you," they chorused. They soon struck up a conversation with Lord Widenfeld. "Whatever you do, don't try to write a book," he advised them. Of course, in every party there is literary crowd, and this one was no exception. "But let's talk about you," I overheard Nicholas Baker saying to someone while Gore Vidal was shaking his head and saying simply, "I really wouldn't know." Meanwhile, Kingsley Amis was catching up on old times with Andrea Dworkin. Frederic Raphael was introducing himself ("You won't know me, but...") and Simon Raven and John Osborne were reminiscing about old friends. "Marvellous chap," said Raven, a tear in his eye. "Lovely lady," said Osborne, wistfully.

Alas, something told me that a literary feud might be in the offing, as I couldn't help but overhear Sir Roy Strong challenging Sir Harold Acton to an arm-wrestle. Minutes later, another literary tussle broke out. "Come outside and say that!" said Lord Jenkins of Hillhead to Margaret Drabble. Elsewhere in the room, Harold Pinter was entertaining the 17th June Group with a selection from his rich stock of knock-knock jokes.

Fashion is always a great talking point. "Marvellously hard-wearing," I heard Mrs

Is John Major or Neil Kinnock better fitted for the highest office?

# A question of character and leadership

Simon Jenkins on the rivals for Downing Street



Kinnock and Major: each has allowed jargon to become a substitute for a vision of the Britain he wishes to lead

So how have they done? Commentators love to say that what with television, or opinion polls, or spin doctors, or Europe, elections are merely crude gladiatorial combat. This is nonsense. Major and Kinnock are in direct line of descent from Pitt and Fox, Gladstone and Disraeli, Churchill and Attlee. Leaders ran and their parties followed. Parties and leaders have been symbiotic since the 18th century. British election contenders emerge not from the rough and tumble of primary elections but from the clubrooms of Westminster factions. Not here the "laughing lions" for which Nietzsche yearned in his famous job description for a leader, "mercy ones such as are built squarely in body and soul".

The most successful democratic campaigner of the 1980s was Ronald Reagan. You would never catch him lecturing his audience about public sectors or G7s or shorter waiting-lists. Ask him about the state of the economy and he would take the electorate by the arm, smile and explain in a hundred little anecdotes why all would be well with him. British politicians disdain Reagan's personalised technique, but they do so much as medieval generals disdain gunpowder as being unnmannly.

Go to a morning press conference and it is all message, no messenger. It may seem monstrously unfair to cerebral politicians that Britain's master governor should have to be chosen from an idiot chorus-line. But elections are about winning, not about how you played the game. Only the party election broadcasts have begun to show some confidence in the magic of leadership, and then only the Liberal and Labour ones.

Yet once won, elections are indeed about governing, and it is governors who we are choosing this week. Mr Ashdown may turn out to be a kingmaker or an assassin, but if so it will be only for a day. The choice may be from a chorus-line, but it is a choice of prime ministers. And the criteria should be how they would perform in office.

Despairing at the similarities between Mr Kinnock and Mr Major, cynics have been reminded of Alice's Tweedledee and Tweedledee. "Let's fight to six and then have dinner." Seldom has a British election seen such a rivalry of niceesses. The contenders are virtually the same age, just touching 50. Both seem free of malice and find it impossible to engage in personal fistfights.

Each seems genuinely to respect the other's rise up the classless ladder of modern politics. Neither needed the help of Oxbridge or family or wealth. There was no apprenticeship in the patronage of a great unon or the entourage of a Toy grandee. Grammar school and personal ambition looked after them both. Theirs may have been the poor bloody infantry of politics: student organisations for Kinnock, local government for Major. Yet these proved so

upwardly mobile that each had reached the top by his mid-twenties. What other democratic force can claim such openness?

Both Mr Major and Mr Kinnock are textbook cases of how to get on in their respective clubs. Each advanced by fierce loyalty to the leader of the day - Mrs Thatcher and Mr Foot respectively - and by adopting a stance vaguely identified as close to his party's ideological roots. Each has found cutting some of those roots more than mildly embarrassing. But as even Mrs Thatcher would have taught, principled compromise is the steel in the soul of government.

Comparison is further confused by the political personality of each having so dictated by circumstance. Mr Kinnock has been Opposition leader for almost a decade. In that time he has been tested and has grown. He has shown undoubted courage in his struggles with the demons of militant trade unionism, a struggle he knows will never end. It is no bad thing in a leader to be seen going "over the top" against an enemy. Whether he can repeat such bravery in office is less certain. Lord Callaghan was no less brave, and the unions defeated him. Mr Kinnock has been less courageous in that other test of leadership, his willingness to root out the liabilities and dead wood among his colleagues.

Mr Kinnock's various tergiversations have been much discussed. His apologies for his past have been engaging, as if political gyration merely indicated sensitivity to the Zeitgeist. He appears to have shed unilateral disarmament, anti-Europeanism, nationalism, as though they were flared jeans and a weakness for Bob Dylan. Mr Kinnock points out that at least he has shifted in the right direction.

A foolish consistency may be the hobgoblin of little minds, but some political ballast is important in the storms that engulf every government. A search for substance in the verbosity of a Kinnock speech reveals little more than the foggy egalitarianism that has moved him since he entered the Commons in 1970.

Nowhere is Mr Kinnock more the prisoner of his circumstance than in the question of competence in government. His skill as an orator and party machinist has been devoted to attacking his own left wing and the Conservative government. He has made some of the best speeches of recent years: only Iain Macleod came near him in my experience. He performs well in inciting Treasury facts and figures. He clings to the jargon of government he is being "over the top" against an enemy. Whether he can repeat such bravery in office is less certain. Lord Callaghan was no less brave, and the unions defeated him. Mr Kinnock has been less courageous in that other test of leadership, his willingness to root out the liabilities and dead wood among his colleagues.

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## GRASPING THISTLES

The prime minister yesterday declared it an issue "more important even than the outcome of the election itself". He meant the future of the United Kingdom. He was referring to a policy espoused by all opposition parties and which might therefore be enacted by the next Parliament. Yet even if the Tories win, the next government of the United Kingdom will have to grasp the thistle of Scotland and how it is governed.

The debate on the union arises from what are now irresistible forces for regionalism in the British Isles and across Europe. But if the Tories have been foolish in ignoring this, the other parties have been just as foolish in implying that constitutional reform is a crock of political gold. There is nothing but hard horse-trading ahead, and the Scots must expect to come out of it with less than they want: including an end to their over-representation by at least 13 of their 72 MPs at Westminster.

Mr Major's current mistake is to set a general but undefined obligation (upholding the United Kingdom constitution) against a specific and localised one (the Scots' demand for self-government). Having established this dichotomy, he is forced to equate devolution with the separation adopted by the more extreme nationalists. Yesterday he even implied that the Scots are not mature enough in their debate to exercise any self-determination on the mildest of devolutionary packages. Yet even the Tories have in a drawer somewhere an unofficial outline of a "Scottish senate" which could have started a conversation and got Mr Major off the hook.

A Labour government, either with an overall majority or with Lib Dem support, would adopt the devolution programme of the Scottish Constitutional Convention. This proposed that a Scottish parliament should have the power to set VAT and income tax, within limits, at different levels from the rest of the United Kingdom. It would exercise control over local government, health, housing, educational, transport, industrial, environmental and other policies.

## COLLAPSE OF CONSENSUS

Voters in the three most important countries on the Continent have sent an ominous message to their governments. In France, Germany and Italy they have voted in significant numbers in regional, state and general elections for the far right: for candidates whose anti-immigration campaigns verge on racism, who scorn the political establishment and use the mob and the media to force their views onto the television screen and the agenda.

The right is cashing in on a deeper exasperation with a generation of consensus and complacent politicians too long in both government and opposition, who have shirked the hard questions such as immigration and recession or failed to spell out the implications of economic exigencies such as cost-cutting or higher taxes.

In each country popular anger has a different focus: an ageing president in France, costly unification in Germany, and a corrupt Roman cleric unable to govern well. The common strand is despair at parliaments that offer no real choice. Italians have seen more than 40 governments since the war, but every twist of the kaleidoscope yields a similar pattern. Germany's vaunted stability has led to the tyranny of the centre: Genscher with everything.

The rise of the right in Germany and Italy has thrown their centre-right governments into near panic. The Italian Christian Democrats and their allies may be unable to command a majority for the first time since the end of the second world war. Enzo Carra, their spokesman, called the result an "earthquake for the entire government". Chancellor Kohl is also paying the price for his government's miscalculation over the costs of German and European unity, and his attempt to hide the cost from voters.

In both countries Christian Democrats have largely themselves to blame, though coalition politics has played a part in

## FACE-SAVING FORMULA

Jason Donovan saved his face last week by winning a £200,000 libel award from *The Face* which suggested that he was hypocritical about his sexuality. Now he is trying to save *The Face*. His lawyers were meeting representatives of the paper yesterday to seek to rescue it from the collapse which the damages and the accompanying £200,000 costs bill threaten.

This is not the only strange twist to a strange case. *The Face*'s behaviour was perverse, even in a paper which prides itself on defying convention. To err over Mr Donovan's sexual proclivities was lax. To carry a doctored photograph of him wearing a T-shirt with a homosexual slogan bordered on the bizarre. To refuse the full and abject apology which Mr Donovan reasonably demanded was reckless. Mr Donovan should never have been forced to go to court for redress.

But the oddest thing of all was the jury's assessment of damages. Mr Donovan agreed that there is nothing libellous about saying that someone is homosexual. Moreover, Mr Donovan's business is show business, in which all publicity is good publicity. The damage done, save to his feelings, was hardly great; and the judge warned the jury not to add noughts to his award. Yet it did just that.

The libel fruit machine now pours out a jackpot with almost every pull of the handle. Hardly any politician is so thick-skinned as to be denied a payout: Edwina Currie and Teresa Gorman have enjoyed the munificence of the law. No showbiz personality is expected to take rough criticism or false allegation with the smooth of the joys of celebra-

tion. John Major has insisted that such devolution threatens the union. What he ignores is the power of the constitutional convention demands which satisfy all reasonable Scots and marginalise the independence lobby. Mr Major is right, however, in his implicit plea to the Scots to have regard to the overall health of the union. Tinkering with its parts affects the whole. In particular, it affects the powers of the Westminster Parliament and of the United Kingdom government.

There is a long history of regional assemblies in Britain, some respectable, some less so. The Greater London Council and other metropolitan authorities had local taxation powers. Stormont had wider devolved powers though Northern Ireland still sent MPs to Westminster to vote on United Kingdom (and if they wished, English) matters.

But devolution would have to lead to shifts in the balance of the United Kingdom Parliament. The Stormont parliament enjoyed its powers in return for diminished representation at Westminster. Such adjustments are needed to offset constitutional unfairness to the English, who could find Scots, Welsh and Northern Irish MPs governing England where English MPs no longer had jurisdiction in Scotland, Wales or Northern Ireland. Unless the English had their own national or regional assemblies to deal with domestic English affairs, Westminster would need to be weighted in England's favour.

The Tories could reasonably demand a severe reduction in Scottish MPs, even enough to make the Westminster Parliament safe for the Tories for another generation. Labour would be more inclined to protect its party interest. If devolution is to be seen as fair by all parts of the union, these matters must be considered by nothing less than a Royal Commission. The Scots may find the outcome uncomfortable. Mr Major is right to warn that tinkering with the union is a dangerous game, but wrong to say that it should therefore not be played.

Labour government, either with an overall majority or with Lib Dem support, would adopt the devolution programme of the Scottish Constitutional Convention. This proposed that a Scottish parliament should have the power to set VAT and income tax, within limits, at different levels from the rest of the United Kingdom. It would exercise control over local government, health, housing, educational, transport, industrial, environmental and other policies.

## PROPERTY AND BANKING

delivering fudge instead of leadership. Giulio Andreotti, the outgoing Italian prime minister, has used his Machiavellian skills to subvert his rivals and patch up wobbly majorities instead of forcing his squabbling colleagues to cut overspending, confront corruption and speed up legislation. Herr Kohl had a chance to appeal to his countrymen's patriotism and self-sacrifice in making a reality of German unity; instead he baulked at puncturing complacency while recklessly promising that Germany would pay for everything.

Voter disillusion has been exacerbated by a divided and dithering opposition. Germany's Social Democrats have ignored the impact of immigration which has brought over 3.5 million immigrants and asylum-seekers to Germany in the past decade, and is still bringing in east Germans at the rate of 1,000 a week. The left in Italy has counted solely on the collapse of communism to boost its vote without proposing new policies on immigration, the north-south divide and the bloated bureaucracy.

Continental consensus delivered prosperity in good times. But the refusal to rock the boat only increased the appeal of extremists outside the parliamentary framework. In Britain coalitions are built within parties, not between them. Unlike the Continent, the two big parties have stretched their boundaries to embrace – and ultimately neutralise – the more unsavoury forces on the far left and right. Britain has thus been spared the extremes of extra-parliamentary opposition.

Germany, Italy and France are now discovering, as they feign surprise at the backlash against Maastricht, that voters do not like deals and policies made in hush-hush. Their politicians must move out of their cosy corridors and coalitions. Alarmed by xenophobic agitation and anger at recession, they must answer the protest vote before the protests overwhelm them.

## WATER RESOURCES

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## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 071-782 5000

### Election and education: quality of teaching, standards in schools and colleges

From Mr D. Bruce Cherry

Sir: Not all lecturing staff would agree with the sentiments expressed by over 200 academics (report, April 3) in which a decline in UK higher education standards was explained by chronic government under-funding of the sector.

The problem is not one of under-funding per se; how can it be when figures exist to show that a higher percentage of GNP is spent on higher education in the UK than in many other EC countries? We merely give it to students in the form of fees and grants as opposed to the institutions.

Any government hoping to get the best out of those who work in the public sector should be prepared to recognise that.

The real problem lies in how the funds are managed within the individual institutions. Teachers have not necessarily made good managers. Chronic mismanagement has been endemic for years – as any honest individual within the system would admit. This mismanagement has been disguised by the fact that the public purse was always there to bail out imprudent spending. The turkeys (sic) have simply come home to roost.

The argument that under-funding necessarily leads to a decline in teaching standards is equally spurious. An education philosophy that puts the onus on students to teach themselves rather than be taught, coupled with a system whereby the same people design the syllabus, teach it, set exams on it and mark it themselves, have inevitably led to large-scale abuse. Evaluations of quality have long been resisted by those who know what the answers might be – especially quality assessments made by the student/client.

Yours faithfully,  
D. B. CHERRY  
(Principal lecturer of marketing,  
Polytechnic of West London),  
15a Westfield Road, Ealing, W13.  
April 3.

From Mr Fred Jarvis

Sir: While I would take issue with some aspects of your leading article, "Classroom politics" (April 1), I strongly support your remarks about the destabilisation of the education system caused by a decade of "politised reform" and your condemnation of the prime minister's

depend on competent, well-motivated teachers. These days, many such teachers are being recruited into the profession but far too many then leave within a year or two.

Why? Is it not that such teachers are disappointed by the lack of large financial reward? They never expected that. It is, at least in part, that they perceive themselves to have been treated unfairly; and a sense of injustice is the greatest of all motivators.

Any government hoping to get the best out of those who work in the public sector should be prepared to recognise that.

Yours,

PETER NEWSAM,  
CLAUSS MOSER,  
JOHN HARVEY-JONES,  
Institute of Education,  
20 Bedford Way, WC1.  
April 1.

From Mr Fred Jarvis

Sir: While I would take issue with some aspects of your leading article, "Classroom politics" (April 1), I strongly support your remarks about the destabilisation of the education system caused by a decade of "politised reform" and your condemnation of the prime minister's

willingness to contemplate a return to the system of secondary education largely abandoned in the 1960s.

Conservative authorities are usually as proud as are the others of their comprehensive schools and their opposition to "opting out" is virtually as strong. (It is for Mr Major to explain why opting out, which was originally proposed as a means of letting schools escape the "clutches" of left-wing local education authorities, has become a means of all devolution of the sector.)

The reality is, as you rightly say,

that we are already heading for Mr Clarke's three-tier system – private, state-maintained selective and "the sinks".

Yours faithfully,

FRED JARVIS (General Secretary,  
National Union of Teachers,  
1975-84),  
92 Hadley Road,  
New Barnet, Hertfordshire.  
April 2.

From Professor John Byner and others

Sir: One area in education that deserves more debate in the general election is 16 to 19-year-olds.

Even if Britain succeeded, by the end of the century, in doubling participation in education and training at 18, we would still have the lowest participation rate in Europe – below half the level now in Belgium, Denmark, France and Germany.

Only a complete overhaul of the post-16 education system gives us a hope of catching up. To increase the incentive to stay on, young people need broad, relevant curricula and achievable examination goals. The present government has been obsessed with the preservation at all costs of the narrow-based A-level system, which segregates academic and vocational education.

A wide spectrum of opinion ranging from the CBI and the TUC to the Royal Society, the Royal Society of Arts and the Secondary Heads Association argues for a more balanced curriculum that will keep young people in education, will prepare them for active citizenship and will meet the needs of a modern European economy.

Labour's blueprint replaces the present morass of post-16 qualifications and curricula by a single integrated and modular Advanced Certificate of Education and Training. It offers the vision lacking from the present government's policies and deserves support.

Yours sincerely,

JOHN BYNER (City University),  
DAVID ASHTON (University of Leicester),  
FRANK COFFIELD (University of Durham),  
A. D. EDWARDS (Newcastle University),  
G. J. WHITTY (Goldsmiths College),  
City University, Northampton Square, EC1.  
April 1.

### Change in N Ireland

From Mr A. L. T. Davies

Sir: In your leader, "The Orange card" (March 30), you state that "the British interest lies in a new, democratic administration in Northern Ireland with some Catholic involvement and with as much devolution from Westminster as possible". Does

The problem with Northern Ireland is that most of the political classes of the rest of the United Kingdom keep looking for solutions that are relatively quick and would command widespread active support: no such animal exists. There is no logical reason why Northern Ireland should be treated any differently from any other part of the United Kingdom: the people there should have the right to help choose the government of the nation.

The Conservative party is now organised in Northern Ireland and although its agenda is not likely to meet with quick success it does offer the prospect of a long-term change in the perspective through which political activity is viewed.

Most of the problems that currently afflict the national well-being are transitory – unemployment, inflation, and so on. Northern Ireland is not a transitory problem and

will not go away – in terms of human misery it ought to be the top priority in the political agenda. It would be far better for the Conservatives to endure a period of opposition than for them to retain power in combination with parties that derive their support on the basis of a sectarian appeal.

Yours faithfully,  
A. L. T. DAVIES,  
Albany Cottage,  
Odiham, Hampshire.  
March 30.

From Mr Stephen Eyre

Sir: Your editorial made no mention of the best hope of unjamming Northern Ireland's politics: the real prospect that Conservative MPs will be returned from some Northern Ireland seats. Not only will this mark a break with the tired sectarian politics of the past, it will bring new ideas to replace those of some of the tired single-issue politicians we have endured for the past 20 years and more.

Yours faithfully,  
STEPHEN EYRE  
(Conservative candidate for Strangford),  
51 Court Street,  
Newtownards, Co. Down.  
March 30.

### Party Politics

From Mrs Jeannie Packer

Sir: Your report (April 6) stating that "... it may be logical for the Conservative party to claim the Grand National winner, Party Politics, as a new symbol of 'hope'" conveniently overlooks one significant fact – Party Politics was steered to victory by a Welsh jockey.

Yours faithfully,

JEANNIE PACKER,  
49 Ashfield Road,  
Carterton, Oxford.

From Mr B. J. Goodchild

Sir: The victory of Party Politics makes me wonder whether "first past the post" is such an apt description of our present electoral system. Where is the post? On a racecourse we can all see it, but in a parliamentary constituency its position cannot be determined until after the race, by which time it is unnecessary.

Perhaps we should look for an alternative sporting term. I suggest "top scorer".

Yours faithfully,

BARRY J. GOODCHILD,  
36 Hinton Road,  
Wallington, Surrey.

From Mr David Bennett

Sir: So Party Politics was "first past the post" – who would have won the National under PR?

Yours faithfully,

DAVID BENNETT,  
7 Ingress Terrace,  
Beauchamp, Kent.

Business letters, page 25



## COURT CIRCULAR

**BUCKINGHAM PALACE**  
April 6: By command of The Queen, the Viscount Boyne, Lord in Waiting, called upon The Yang Di-Pertuan Agong of Malaysia at the Dorchester Hotel, Park Lane, London W1, this morning and welcomed Their Majesties on behalf of Her Majesty on their arrival in this country.

The Duke of Edinburgh, Trustee of the Prince Philip Trust Fund for the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead, attended a meeting of the trustees and a dinner at Englefield Green, Surrey, this evening.

The Princess Royal, Colonel-in-Chief, 8th Canadian Hussars (Princess Louise's), departed today from Royal Air Force Lyneham for a visit to the Regiment at Bergen-Hohne, Germany.

Her Royal Highness this evening attended the Royal Geographical Society's Lecture "Gerald Durrell's Army" at the Royal Geographical Society, Kensington.

### Today's royal engagements

The Princess of Wales will attend a concert by Black Voices at St Stephen Walbrook at 11.50; and, as President of the Hospital for Sick Children, Great Ormond Street, will attend the film premiere of *Hook* at the Odeon, Leicester Square, at 7.50.

Prince Edward will visit Poole and view the new ferry *MV Bafleur* at 1.20; will visit Sowerby, Poole, to open the new European distribution centre and headquarters at 2.30; will visit the Beacon Centre, Canford Heath, at 3.35; and will visit the Muscliff Youth Centre, Bournemouth, at 6.35.

Princess Margaret will open St Dominic's Housing Scheme, London Road, Stoke-on-Trent, at noon for the Coventry Churches Housing Association; will attend a luncheon given by the British Ceramic Manufacturers Federation, Station Road, at 12.55; and will visit Portmeirion Pottery, Stoke-on-Trent, at 2.30.

The Duke of Gloucester will present the Car Park awards at a luncheon given by the English Tourist Board at the Inter-continental Hotel at 12.30.

The Duchess of Gloucester will open the new classroom block and community house at Birchfield Primary School, Aston, at 11.45; will open the Dental School at Sheffield University at 2.15, and will visit Doncaster Royal Infirmary 3.50.

**Telephone 071 481 4000**

### BIRTHS

**ARCHER** - On Thursday April 2nd, at Eastbourne D.C.H., to Jane and Keith, a daughter, Victoria Jane.

**BOWERMAN** - On April 2nd, to Catherine (see Sill) and Mark, a son, Richard Peter Alexander.

**BUCHANAN-SMITH** - On April 1st, to Helen (see O'Connell) and James, a son, Angus James.

**CROKER** - On April 1st, in the church of St Peter and St Paul, London, a daughter, Sophie Charlotte.

**FILMER** - On April 4th, to Anthony Kirwan-Taylor and Sophie Charles, a daughter, Alexandra.

**FLOWER** - On April 4th, to Karen and Perrin, a son, William, and a daughter, Sophie.

**GUTTERIDGE** - On Saturday April 4th, to Susan (see Potts) and Stephen, at The Princess Hospital, London, a daughter, Rebecca Sarah Hartell.

**HARDING** - On March 31st, to Karen (see Day) and Neil, a son, Benjamin William.

**HARDY** - On March 29th, to John (see McCreary) and Joanne, a son, Josephine Marcella.

**HOOGENBOEZEM** - On April 5th, at University College Hospital, London, a son, Helen (see Polak), a son, Herman Willem.

**MANN** - On April 11th, to Linda and Alan, a son, Christopher, in Victoria (see Hermann) wife of Michael, their first child, John Arvin.

**MULLINGS** - On March 31st, to Maureen (see Gresham) and Richard, a son, Josephine Beatrice Luton, a sister for John and Elizabeth.

**NICOL** - On March 29th, to Alan, at Aberdeen Maternity Hospital, in Matrinstown and Christina, a daughter, Lydia.

**TIDSBURY** - On April 3rd, in Moreton-in-Marsh, to Caroline and West, a daughter, Emily, a son, Matt, a daughter, Lydia.

### MARRIAGES

**TANNER-LINDGREEN** - The marriage took place on April 4th, at St Peter's Church, London, between Revd James Tanner of London and Dr Cecilia Lindgreen of Stockholm.

### PEARL ANNIVERSARIES

**BRYDEN-GODFREY** - In Chelmsford Parish Church on April 7th 1942, Gilbert and Irene, by special address, Mansfield Airport.

**PALMER-CHAPMAN** - On April 7th 1962, Sue and Mike Chapman, anniversary, lots of love from Tony and Linda.

### DEATHS

**COOPER** - See Chapman  
**de PASS** - See de Pass Thomas.

sington Gore, London SW7.  
Mrs Charles Ritchie was in attendance.

**KENSINGTON PALACE**  
April 6: The Princess of Wales, Patron, Parkinson's Disease Society, this morning opened the Society's Headquarters at 22 Upper Woburn Place, London WC1.

Wing Commander David Barton, RAF, was in attendance.

The Prince of Wales was represented by Air Vice-Marshal Richard Johns at the Memorial Service for Air Vice-Marshal Desmond Hughes which was held at St Michael and All Angels' Church, Royal Air Force College, Cranwell, today.

**THATCHED HOUSE LODGE**  
April 6: Princess Alexandra and Sir Angus Ogilvy this morning attended the Funeral of Prince George Galitzine which was held at the Dormition and All Saints' Church, Ennismore Gardens, London SW7.

### Latest wills

Mr Charles Amherst Villiers, of Kensington, west London, engineer, inventor and painter, left estate valued at £180,306 net. Mrs Katherine Helen Diana Talbot, of Lustleigh, Devon, left estate valued at £3,021,529 net. She left her estate mostly to relatives.

Miss Constance Julia Crimishank, of Chelsea, London, left estate valued at £346,024 net. She left the entire amount equally between the British Rheumatism and Arthritis Association, the Cheshire Foundation and the RSPCA.

Other estates include (net, before tax paid):

Mr John Gavin Lawson, of Seashouses, Northumberland £76,907.

Mr John Martin of Blagdon, Avon £561,985.

Mr John Digory Steeves of Ivybridge, Devon £182,080.

Mr Dahlia Florence Sparshott of Southsea, Hampshire £637,877.

Mr Enid May Wright of South Wigston, Leicestershire £55,772.

Mr Richard Hillersdon Bullett, of Andoversford, Gloucestershire £1,288,803.

Mr John Moran, of Barnard Castle, Co Durham £1,180,174.

Miss Penelope Rose Alice Perkins, of Appleton, Devon £1,359,595.

Mr Phyllis Pike, of Trowbridge, Wiltshire £1,131,775.

Ms Grace Lilian Vernon, of Hampstead £1,291,011.



A pensive Terry Waite ponders the music of Tasmin Little and Julian Lloyd Webber as they rehearsed yesterday for a "freedom concert" to be held at Blackheath concert halls, near his home in southeast London, on Thursday. Proceeds will go to Victim Support, the charity which helps victims of crime

## Call for emphasis on theology

By RUTH GLEDHILL, RELIGION CORRESPONDENT

A MEMBER of the general synod of the Church of England has condemned protestant fundamentalism, where "the evil emissaries are the liberal theologians of the decadent mainstream churches."

The Rev Dr Paul Avis calls for a higher standard of theological education for Anglican priests.

Archbishops and bishops should be theologically equipped to lead rational, calm debate in synod meetings.

Dr Avis, of the church's doctrine commission, which advises the church's bishops on doctrinal issues, says it is too easy for Christians to han-

ker after a form of power that produces measurable results: instant healings, spiritual gifts and other knock-down evidence for a reality from beyond this world.

Dr Avis, vicar of Stoke Canon, Exeter, describes a "vacuum of authority" in Anglicanism. He calls on the church to adjust to a new role as the "conscience of capitalism."

"I would guess that the popular perception of the church at the present time is that it is more interested in sanctifying failure than in promoting success. Nothing is more calculated to render the church irrelevant."

He argues that no one will believe the church's belated assurances that sexuality is a gift from God to be used for human happiness until the church shows by its actions

that it neither regards sexuality as suspect nor identifies women as icons of the erotic. This would entail ordaining women to the priesthood.

Dr Habgood, writing in the book's foreword, says the "crunch question" is whether the Church of England and the Anglican Communion is leadable.

"The requirement that leaders should have intellectual stature, for instance, will not please those who glory in Anglican amateurism," he says.

It is neither regarded as suspect nor identifies women as icons of the erotic. This would entail ordaining women to the priesthood.

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Authority, Leadership and Conflict in the Church. Mowbray, £8.99.

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OBITUARIES

## ISAAC ASIMOV



**Isaac Asimov**, prolific Russian-born American science fiction writer and populariser of scientific ideas in his many non-fiction works, died yesterday of heart and kidney failure at New York University Hospital aged 72. He was born at Petrovichi in the Smolensk district of Russia on January 2, 1920.

ALTHOUGH his later work had been predominantly non-fictional, perhaps no contemporary science fiction writer had more influence on the genre as it is today than Isaac Asimov. He was, among other things, awesomely prolific. His admonition in *Who's Who* under the heading, Recreation, to those of frailer constitution, contains his uncompromising credo: "a man's work is his play; my recreation is writing". A punishing writing schedule which, until comparatively recently involved eight hours a day, seven days a week at the keyboard of his word processor in his 33rd floor Manhattan apartment, had produced almost five hundred titles at the time of his death.

But sheer weight of production would never have achieved the impact Asimov made if it had not been for the persuasive quality of his scientific ideas. He had been precociously creative as a child, and this precocity was only underpinned and given greater authority by the formal qualifications he gained in chemistry, which culminated in a doctorate in 1948. Thereafter he embarked on a successful career as a university teacher. But by that time he had already made his mark with the science-fiction reading public with his celebrated story "Nightfall". This reputation was extended with the appearance of *I Robot* (1950), with its development of the "Laws of Robotics" first posited in "Nightfall", an ethical system for the actions of artificial intelligences which elevated robots from the mindless monsters of pre-Asimov sci-fi and influenced almost every writer who subsequently touched the subject. This and the philosophically ambitious *Foundation Trilogy* have remained among his most enduringly popular-fictional works.

It has to be conceded that much of Asimov's original inspiration for his most effect-

ive ideas came from that influential science fiction magazine editor John W. Campbell — but it was, nevertheless, Asimov who gave them shape and, through his scientific knowledge, their convincing quality. Indeed, among his myriad of books are many which are lengthy presentations of complex scientific concepts. These concepts are always present, too, in his mammoth space romances. Few of his works are short, though, at the same time, among his short stories are some of the finest in the genre. When he worked on the small canvas Asimov could be as witty and poignant.

Isaac Asimov was the son of Judah and Anne (née Berman) Asimov. His parents emigrated, in 1923, to New York City, where they opened

a candy store. Isaac went to Brooklyn Boys High School where, Sam Moskowitz wrote in his *Seekers of Tomorrow* (1966), he was a nasty boy: "egocentric, introverted and sarcastic". But that was by way of being a little joke. Judah Asimov always sternly told his boy that the pulp magazines he sold from his store were degenerate; but he relented when he saw an educational value in *Amazing Stories*, edited by Hugo Gernsback, to which Isaac became devoted: "It received", recalled Asimov, "the august paternal nod. Science fiction, he decided, might improve my mind by interesting me in science... From then on I was hooked."

The gifted boy went on to Columbia University, where he studied chemistry. He graduated at 19. During the

second world war he worked at the Naval Air Experimental Station at Philadelphia; later (1945-46) he served as a corporal in the army. He gained his PhD from Columbia in 1948, and in the next year joined the Boston School of Medicine, where he eventually became a professor.

He had started to write at 12. Six years later he took his first science fiction tale to the great John Campbell, editor of *Analog*. Later, in 1938, he sold the magazine another story. Thereafter his name figured in all the periodicals dedicated to science fiction, and in 1950 he published his first book.

The story with which Asimov excited his readers — and it still excites novice devotees — was "Nightfall", which he sold to Campbell in 1941. Campbell invented the idea

around which it revolves: what if the stars should appear for only one night in a thousand years? Here first appear the famous "three laws of robotics," (true for such robots as have been or may be invented), again formulated by Campbell, extended in the collection *I Robot* and used by countless science fiction writers since. Asimov's full-scale novels sold by the million. Chief amongst them, perhaps, was the *Foundation Trilogy* (1952-53), which was, characteristically, conceived by his author after he had read Gibbon — only Asimov's Empire is a galactic civilisation of the future which collapses and is then reborn.

Thereafter he did not write much more fiction of this type (its readers yearned for it), and *The Gods Themselves* (1972) was reckoned, as a disappointed fan wrote, "to lack vision". But Asimov never even touched the trashier end of the science-fiction mode — and he was much imitated.

He wrote lucidly and well (rather than gracefully) and was a superb plotter. To these qualities he added scientific integrity of a high order. He could have been a writer of the calibre of his great predecessor H. G. Wells, but he lacked the poetry, the imagination and the interest in character. Indeed, characterisation in his novels was more or less lacking. *Fantastic Voyage* (1966) was a "novelisation" of a screenplay by Harry Kleiner for a film about a surgical team that is miniaturised and sent into the bloodstream of a wounded scientist. It happened to be typical of the sort of efficient fantasy which Asimov produced, even though the original idea was not his own.

From the 1960s onwards, by far the largest proportion of Asimov's immense output was non-fictional. His interests shifted from science to religion, and even to literature.

He wrote a two-volume guide to Shakespeare, *Asimov's Guide to Shakespeare* (1970). He had done exactly the same for the Bible, *Asimov's Guide to the Bible* (1969-70). But his books of scientific popularisation were better — and one can believe that he typed at a speed of 90 words per minute. He wrote, as was once said of the Dutch author Vestdijk, "faster than

God can read". Among books which touched upon most subjects known to man were: *Building Blocks of the Universe* (1957 revised 1961); *The Intelligent Man's Guide to Science* (1960) — this became, of course, when revised, *Asimov's Guide to Science* (1972); *Realm of Algebra* (1966); *The Roman Republic* (1966); *Asimov's Annotated "Paradise Lost"* (1974) — which was not used in many schools or universities; and *In Memory Yet Green: The Autobiography of Isaac Asimov 1920-1954* (1979).

In addition he wrote a dozen books for the young, on subjects ranging from mythology and history to the organisation of the solar system; edited *The Isaac Asimov Treasury of Humour* (1971) and (under the authorial guise of "Dr A.") wrote *The Sensuous Dirty Old Man* (1971).

He wrote five books of limericks, one of them in collaboration with a noted American poet, John Ciardi.

But he continued, in his own words, to "steer clear of the mysteries of the human personality and human relationships". "I'm on fire to explain," he commented, "I don't indulge in scholarly depth." He was, undoubtedly, an amazingly industrious man, as well as a born entertainer and populariser.

Asimov continued to be prolific in spite of the fact that he had not been in good health for the last ten years and more. A heart attack in 1977 hardly slowed him down, nor did triple bypass surgery in 1983. Quite recently he had announced that a prostate operation had finally slowed him down and that he would be taking life more easily in the future. A few weeks ago he had finished a sequel volume to his *Foundation Trilogy*. It is scheduled for publication next year under the title *Forward, the Foundation*. He won many prizes, including the Hugo (1963) and the Nebula (1972) — both for science fiction.

Asimov, who became an American citizen in 1928, was twice married. First, in 1942, to the former Gertrude Blugerman, by whom he had a son and a daughter. This marriage ended in divorce. In 1972 he married Janet Opal Jeppson.

## APPRECIATIONS

### Michael Lees



YOUR obituary of Michael Lees (March 31) leaves us with a comforting but unfortunately wrong impression that he died contented. He was, as you say, defending the Serb cause "first embraced in his youth", but the truth is that, especially in the last months of his life, he was deeply frustrated by his inability to breach what he saw as an impregnable barrier against any serious revision of the pro-Tito and anti-Chetnik view of war-time history.

You rightly recall that his last book "involved the overturning of an account of history that had held official sway for 40 years and called into question the judgment of certain British protagonists". But a reluctance to change course was not the whole reason why the British media and publishing houses refused to give voice to information that would invalidate so much of what our public had been led to believe. For Michael Lees's research at the Public Record Office cast doubt not only on the judgment but also on the integrity of some of the leading British pro-Titoists.

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# Falling house prices drive elderly to seek state aid

BY JEREMY LAURANCE  
SOCIAL SERVICES CORRESPONDENT

THE collapse of the property market has led to a record increase in the number of old people in private residential homes having to rely on the state to pay their fees.

Income support payments to people in private homes rose by 47 per cent in the year to May 1991 as the number paying for themselves dropped for the first time from 108,000 to 94,000. Total income support payments for residential care now exceed £1.8 billion, up by £600 million in a year. The figure was £10 million in 1979.

The number of residents claiming income support rose by a 22 per cent over the year to 231,000 and the aver-

age claim by 21 per cent from £129 to £156. Seven out of ten residents of private homes are now paid for by the state.

*Laing's Review of Private Health Care*, the authoritative annual survey of the sector which published the figures, suggests that elderly owner-occupiers have been unable to sell their homes to raise the capital to pay the fees and are having to seek help from the state. Claimants are given six months — or longer in exceptional circumstances — to sell a property in which they are no longer living before it is taken into account in calculating eligibility for benefit. In the meantime, those on a low income and with less than £8,000 in capital can claim help.

The survey also suggests that some old people may be deliberately impoverishing themselves to get benefits when faced with fees averaging £200 to £300 a week, even though the Department of Social Security said that it was fraud to do so.

But Age Concern said elderly people were more anxious about getting their affairs sorted out than defrauding the benefits system. "Most of those who have homes to sell want to pay their way. They want to get things cleared up so that they can feel relaxed and cheerful in their new home."

• The NHS is failing to win back the share of the private health care market it lost in the 1980s. Although it increased its income from pay beds by 14 per cent in 1990-1 to £113 million, this is a slower rate of growth than that of the private sector. NHS trusts established under the reforms last year have been encouraged to compete with the private sector but this has taken second place to the trust's priority task of establishing themselves," *Laing's Review* says.

Income from NHS pay beds matched that in the private sector in the early 1970s but had fallen to an eighth by the late 1980s. Health authorities were given new freedom to earn revenue from private treatment under the Health and Medicines Act in 1989 but few have taken advantage of it.

## Italians throw out Andreotti

Continued from page 1  
Social Democrats held steady and the Liberals made minor gains, according to initial projections, but together the four parties were at least two points short of an absolute majority.

The neo-fascist Italian Social Movement, spearheaded by Alessandra Mussolini in Naples, was projected to make some gains in the senate with up to 7 per cent but was battling to maintain its position in the chamber with 5.4 per cent.

Italy now faces a period of prolonged uncertainty as the Christian Democrats embark on some hard bargaining to try to form a government. One option would be for them to seek to bring the former communist Democratic Party of the Left as well as the republicans into an enlarged alliance. But both would demand far-reaching electoral reform.

Another possibility would be to bring Umberto Bossi, the league leader, into government. If no alliance can be found, the country faces another election with the economy suffering in the interim.

Mould splits, page 14



Shooting match: a Bosnian trooper returns fire as he and civilians are attacked by Serbian snipers from the roof of a Sarajevo hotel during a peace march yesterday

## EC accepts Bosnian statehood

Continued from page 1

had been looted. A militiamen-escorted drive through the back streets of the city to another hotel proved that large parts of Sarajevo were yesterday under the complete control of Muslim militiamen and the Muslim units of the Bosnia police force.

Scars of road blocks were manned by so-called "green beret" Muslim militiamen, along with units of the Patriotic League of Bosnia, a predominantly Muslim organisation also known as the "Bosnian army". Despite the urgent calls for a ceasefire, gunfire and explosions could still be heard last night.

• Macedonia waits: The EC yesterday postponed the recognition of Macedonia, which has been blocked for three months by Greece. Athens objects to the use of the name for fear of territorial claims on its northern province of the same name.

## Ringo campaigns for No 1

As George Harrison strums up support for yogic flying, Peter Vicker finds that Ringo Starr is more down to earth

London's Hammersmith Odeon the following day. With him will be his son Zak, aged 26, also a drummer, and Joe Walsh, formerly of the Eagles.

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THE TIMES

# BUSINESS

TUESDAY APRIL 7 1992

BUSINESS EDITOR JOHN BELL

**Consumer confidence on the rise**

## Britain poised for a recovery in the economy

BY ANATOLE KALETSKY, ECONOMICS EDITOR

**AN INCREASE** in new credit advanced to consumers, combined with two surveys that showed a marked improvement in business and consumer confidence, suggested yesterday that Britain could be poised for an economic recovery once the election is out of the way. However, another sharp drop in new car sales, suggested that any recovery might prove patchy and difficult to sustain.

The Central Statistical Office reported that consumers took out new credit of £3.97 billion in February, an increase of 1.8 per cent on January, and 11 per cent

higher than a year ago. Total consumer credit outstanding increased by £13 million in February, the first such rise since July.

Outstanding credit fell by £62 million in January and the February increase contrasted with average City expectations of a further fall of £50 million, according to MMS International, a leading financial research firm.

Although analysts remain wary of reading too much into one month's figures, the rise was enough to support expectations that consumer spending might be turning the corner. However, car sales in March, released yesterday by the Society of Motor Manufacturers and

Traders, suggested no sign of recovery, despite the cut in car tax announced in Norman Lamont's Budget. Car sales were 15 per cent lower in March than a year earlier.

The hopes of an economic improvement were reinforced by a consumer confidence survey released by BSL Business Strategies, a private forecasting firm. The survey suggested a "slight rise" in consumer spending in the first quarter of the year, according to BSL. It also showed regional variations in consumer attitudes narrowing, with confidence rising especially sharply in Greater London and the West Midlands.

In another consumer enquiry, Morgan Grampian, a publishing firm found more people expecting to buy household goods over the next six months, while a survey of business confidence by Dun & Bradstreet, a business information firm, showed overall optimism at the highest level since the first quarter of 1989.

Share prices climbed above 2,400 after weekend opinion polls confirmed that the two main parties are running neck and neck (Michael Clark writes).

The new two-week trading account got off to an encouraging start with the FTSE 100 index rising 18.2 points to 2,409.0. The index has fallen more than 160 points since the election was called on March 11.

Despite the market's performance, many dealers are convinced that there will be a hung parliament and that investors will have to contend with further sharp falls short-term. All eyes on Friday will be focused on sterling and how it reacts to the prospect of a Labour government or hung result.

The pound and the peseta, appeared to pose no real threat to sterling. The pound continued to languish at the bottom of the parity grid in quiet trading, as the market awaited the result of Britain's election.

The pound reached 241.80 escudos, returning to buy pounds and marks later. The final sterling purchases were at about 242 escudos, against the new ERM member's central rate of 250.47 against the pound. Its effective floor against sterling was 241.545 escudos. In London, dealers detected no intervention from the Bank of England.

The Bank of Portugal also made a one-point cut in its intervention interest rates.

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The pound reached 241.80 escudos, returning to buy pounds and marks later. The final sterling purchases were at about 242 escudos, against the new ERM member's central rate of 250.47 against the pound. Its effective floor against sterling was 241.545 escudos. In London, dealers detected no intervention from the Bank of England.

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**ESS ROUNDUP**  
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# Whitbread says bad debts will wipe £37m off profits

BY MARTIN WALLER

TUMBLING property values, especially in the South-East, have claimed another victim with an announcement from Whitbread, one of Britain's biggest brewers, that £37 million will be wiped off pre-tax profits for the latest financial year because of a need to increase provisions on bad loans to the free trade.

Whitbread, like many other brewers, lent millions of pounds to public houses and other retail outlets during the leisure boom in the late Eighties to develop the businesses in return for agree-

## Hillsdown reshuffles managers

BY JONATHAN PRYNN

AMBITIONIUS property development plans at The Chepstow Racecourse, shares in which are quoted on the stock market, will remain on ice until the economy recovers, the company said yesterday.

Chepstow was one of the success stories of the post-crash stock market, with the prospect of profits from a hotel and golf course development. But Glynn Clay, the chairman, said yesterday there was "no hope" of carrying out the plans "in the present state of the economy".

Pre-tax profits rose 35 per cent to £63.873 last year on turnover of £1.65 million. Mr Clay said the increase was due to the company's success in promoting non-racing activities such as the markets that are held at the course on Sundays.

However, a high tax bill of £22,117 (£6,439) reduced post tax earnings to £41,756, almost unchanged on last year. The higher charge was caused by architects' fees of £20,000 relating to the new stand not being allowed for in taxation. All the boxes in the stand are fully let and income-producing, Mr Clay said. The dividend was held at 1p.

Mr Clay said the current year's result should be helped by the running of the Welsh Grand National, which always takes place at Chepstow on the bank holiday after Christmas. In the past, this has doubled or trebled the day's take, he said.

## Plaxton sells

Plaxton Group, the troubled coachbuilder and motor distributor, is selling subsidiaries at Bolton and Rochdale, in Greater Manchester, to managers for £2.7 million.

Plaxton, due to change its name to Henleys, will concentrate on coaches and bus building at Scarborough.

## Diploma buys

Diploma, the electronic and building components group, has paid £10.4 million for a 90 per cent stake in Anachem, a Luton supplier of biomedical and environmental analysis products.

## Coats closure

Coats Viyella, the clothing and textiles group, has repeated its announcement of the impending closure of the Peter England shirt factory at Magherafelt, County Londonderry, Northern Ireland, with the loss of 516 jobs. Another 50 posts will be cut at the sister plant at Maytown, near Derry.

## Freeze sought

Hafnia Holding has asked the Copenhagen bourse to suspend trading in its shares until its talks on co-operation with other Scandinavian insurers have been concluded.

## Embargo lifted

The European Community is to lift its embargo on oil exports to South Africa, according to Hans-Dietrich Genscher, the German foreign minister. He was speaking after a meeting of foreign ministers in Luxembourg. João de Deus Pinheiro, the Portuguese minister who chaired the meeting, said details of the decision were being worked out.

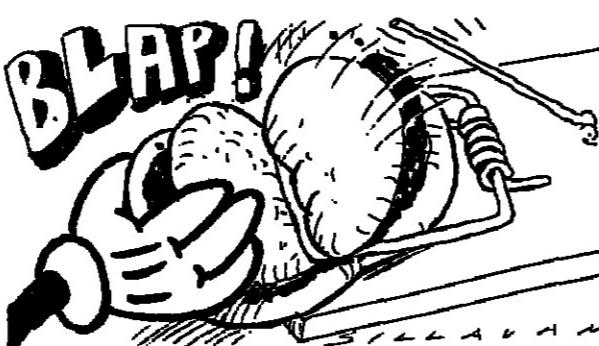
## Disney savours a taste for cuddly toys

FROM PHILIP ROBINSON  
IN NEW YORK

MICKEY Mouse burgers have left a sour taste in Walt Disney's mouth. The entertainment group, which is due to open its \$4 billion Euro Disney theme park at Paris on Sunday, has closed its two-year experiment with fast food to concentrate on shops that sell its cuddly toys.

Disney has gone for the money. While its attempts at a "McMickey" limped along at about break even, profits from its merchandising stores were up 15 per cent last year, and sales jumped almost 40 per cent.

Disney plans a further 400 over the next four years, most of them outside America. Britain's four Disney stores are among its best performers, with the Regent Street, London, and Glasgow shops ranked second and third in



the world behind Honolulu. Another dozen Disney stores are due to open in Britain this year, starting in Bromley this month, followed by Bristol, Edinburgh and Nottingham. The expansion is likely to take Disney's UK shop sales from about £1.8 million to £22 million and create about 300 new jobs.

Mark Lilly, senior vice-president and general manager of Disney Stores

ft, carry 3,000 products lines and usually sell about \$650 of merchandise per sq ft each year. Stephen Burke, Disney's executive in charge of retailing, confirmed that Mickey's Kitchens were "a test" that broke even. "We tend to move into areas that are more profitable for us," he added.

Jack Trout, a Connecticut retail analyst, said: "I think it was kind of silly of them to go into that business. The US is not exactly short of fast food operations that are oriented towards kids."

Disney plans to lift its worldwide stores network from 126 to 500 within four years. It opened 45 new stores last year and plans about 50 more in America, among others in Britain, France, Japan, Germany, Singapore and Hong Kong. Mr Burke said: "No one has ever been a worldwide retailer until now."



Dual role: Paul Reichmann was on the board of a bank that is owed US\$756 million by his company

## Laura Ashley pulls back into the black

BY GILLIAN BOWDITCH

LAURA Ashley, the garment and home furnishing retailer that celebrates its 40th anniversary next year, reported results in line with City expectations but said the economic environment had not improved noticeably in any of its main markets.

The two parties failed to negotiate an acceptable exit agreement that would allow Whitbread to recover enough of the investment should it need to pull out in future. "We just felt we had to get a better protection for the sort of investment it was going to take to put the franchise across the whole of France," Mr Jarvis said.

The potential cost ran into hundreds of millions of pounds. Whitbread and Pepsi will now "explore alternative ownership arrangements," with one possibility being the transfer of ownership of the business to the American corporation.

The Pizza Hut joint venture in Britain between Whitbread and Pepsi is not affected.

■ Heineken, the Dutch brewer that has a 23-year-old licensing agreement with Whitbread under which the British firm produces lager for the British market, has denied a report of a possible closer link between the two. "It is not under discussion. This kind of rumour comes up all the time," a spokeswoman said.

Mr Maximin, chief executive, said that in

the UK total gross profit was up by 2.5 per cent in the first two months of the current financial year.

In continental Europe, sales are up 14 per cent on a year on year basis but in America, garment sales are down by more than 10 per cent and home furnishing sales are flat. The shares were unchanged at 93p.

Mr Maximin said: "Economic and political uncertainty continue to create difficult trading conditions."

"However, the main challenges facing Laura Ashley in the year ahead are firmly within the control of the management. The various management initiatives are producing the desired results and the company is optimistic of achieving the profit targets set at the beginning of the year."

Tempus, page 24

## Losses double at First American

FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT IN NEW YORK

FIRST American Bankshares, the bank holding company which is based in Washington and which was secretly owned by the collapsed Bank Of Credit and Commerce International (BCCI), more than doubled its losses last year to \$358 million.

The bank paid out almost \$26 million in legal fees to a dozen law firms to handle BCCI-related enquiries originating from government investigators.

The investigations also led to a run on the bank's deposits which fell almost \$2 billion last year to \$7.08 billion, but which the bank says have now stabilised.

First American Bankshares is seeking what is believed to be about \$100 million of fresh capital from the government of Abu Dhabi, its 28 per cent shareholder and which was also the principal shareholder in the Bank Of Credit and Commerce International.

The Abu Dhabi government has already injected \$100 million into the bank but is now believed to want to wait and see the scale of its losses from the current liquidation of BCCI before committing additional funds.

Mr George Davis, a former Citicorp executive appointed president of First American Bankshares three months ago, said the bank's former links with BCCI have hampered efforts to raise cash.

Mr Davis said the bank's losses last year stemmed mainly from bad property loans in the metropolitan area around Washington. A US government investigation continues into the bank's loans and the activities of Clark Clifford, former chairman, and Robert Altman, president, who were forced to resign last year.

## O&Y head quit bank before problems

FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT  
IN NEW YORK

PAUL Reichmann, who was replaced as president of Olympia & York Developments last month, resigned as a director of the property company's lead bankers a few weeks before O & Y publicly acknowledged cash problems. It emerged last night.

Although O & Y will not pinpoint the date of the resignation letter, it is understood Mr Reichmann resigned as a director of Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce (CIBC) in late February or early March.

O & Y's credit rating was cut at the end of February by the Canadian Dominion Bond Rating Service. In the first week of March, the property concern run by Mr Reichmann and his two brothers announced that it was selling assets.

By the middle of the month, it acknowledged that there was a cash squeeze over its short-term credit in the commercial paper market: by March 22, bankers were calling for a meeting to re-structure its debts.

O & Y is estimated to owe CIBC US\$672 million on property in Canada and New York and just under \$84 million for loans on its office development at London's Canary Wharf.

A spokesman for O & Y said yesterday that the resignation took place "a number of weeks ago", before the current cash problems hit the company. He gave no reason for it. Others familiar with the company said Mr Reichmann wanted to avoid what might have appeared to be a conflict of interest.

The O & Y spokesman said Mr Reichmann held no other boardroom positions with other banks or outside companies linked to the current O & Y debt restructuring.

More than 100 banks have been invited to a special creditors' meeting in Toronto next Monday. They are due to be given a detailed breakdown of O & Y's debts. The meeting has already been postponed for a week because of what analysts describe as the lack of management systems at O & Y, the world's largest property developer.

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Interest Rate	10%	11%	12%	13%	14%	15%	16%	17%	18%	19%
Term	12 months	18 months	24 months	30 months	36 months	42 months	48 months	54 months	60 months	66 months
Frequency	Monthly	Quarterly	Bi-annually	Annually	Bi-annually	Annually	Bi-annually	Annually	Bi-annually	Annually
Interest Type	Simple	Compound	Simple	Compound	Simple	Compound	Simple	Compound	Simple	Compound
Interest Payment	Monthly	Quarterly	Bi-annually	Annually	Bi-annually	Annually	Bi-annually	Annually	Bi-annually	Annually
Interest Calculation	Simple	Compound	Simple	Compound	Simple	Compound	Simple	Compound	Simple	Compound
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Interest Calculation	Simple	Compound	Simple	Compound						

TEMPOS

## Laura Ashley has designs on Nineties

**T**HE new management team at Laura Ashley could not be further removed from the old. Transatlantic jargon, dynamism and a desire for change have replaced hand wringing, sacred cows and mumbbling excuses about the weak dollar.

Change was happening before Jim Maxmin took over, but he has accelerated the process. The gearing ratio has fallen from 25 to 5 per cent, the distribution problems have been tackled by an alliance with Federal Express, rationalisation and restructuring have started and stock levels have improved.

The result has been a profit before interest and exceptional items of £2.7 per cent in the year to January 25 against a loss of £6.7 million, largely because of a £10.1 million reduction in interest charges to £2.3 million.

Exceptional costs of £11.8 million for the reorganisation of the business and stock write-downs led to a pre-tax loss of £9.1 million against a loss of £11.5 million.

The loss per share is 3.9p against a loss of 4.4p. Stripping out disposals, turnover on a pro-forma basis has fallen from £289 million to £261 million. There is a nominal dividend of 0.1p, which Sir Bernard Ashley and the directors have agreed to waive.

The questions shareholders now have to ask are: is the Laura Ashley brand strong enough to support an international retailing business that comprises 540 shops in 28 countries, and how long

### Highland Distilleries

**S**COTCH and cognac do, after all, mix rather well, as interim results from The Highland Distilleries Company again demonstrate.

During a trading period when home and export volumes of Scotch fell, and operating profits slipped £1.16 million to £1.8 million, Highland's holding of 6 per cent convertible bonds acquired at the time of the October 1990 deal with Rémy Cointreau helped limit the slide at the pre-tax level.

Gross interest receivables totalled £3.54 million (£2.29 million), to help cushion pre-tax profits for the six months



New look Jim Maxmin, who has accelerated the changes at Laura Ashley

to end-February at £14.7 million against £15.1 million. The interim dividend rises from 1.38p to 1.45p.

Famous Grouse still accounts for a good half of profits and again fared better than the market. While industry sales of bottled whisky fell 12 per cent, and even though Famous Grouse still maintained its premium pricing, its sales were 6 per cent down. Market share improved from 13 to 14 per cent, while in export markets volumes were 7 per cent up and export values 21 per cent higher.

The cross-holding with

Remy's parent continues to benefit Highlands' continental business. Sales of duty free and in France, Sweden, and The Netherlands remain robust. Trading in America, however, was dull, reflecting slack economic conditions.

The domestic demand by blenders of new and mature whisky fell in the six months ending February, and Christmas 1991 was not particularly bright.

Highland Distilleries could well end its current year with pre-tax profits virtually unchanged at £28 million, but should go on to

achieve profits of £30.4 million in 1993.

At 25p, down 11p, the shares trade on 17.5 times 1992 profit hopes, and on 16 times 1993 projections. It has an excellent track record on acquisitions, having doubled its size with the £54 million Dillons and Preedy deal in 1989.

Analysts are forecasting further growth in the current year with pre-tax profits increasing from £13.4 million to perhaps £14.5 million. On earnings of about 16p that would put the shares on a rating of 12 times, below the average for the stocks sector of 15 times. For investors worried about the state of the market on Friday, the shares look a sound political hedge.

### STOCK MARKET

## Fresh Middle East tension revives oil shares

**S**HARES of the big British oil producers enjoyed a much-needed boost from a revival in the price of crude on world markets after increased tension in the Middle East.

The price of Brent crude oil for May delivery reached almost \$19 a barrel on news of the Iranian bombing raid on Iraq. Oil shares on the London stock market made the most of the rise, helped by active buying of oil shares in New York over the weekend. There were gains for BP, up 12p to 254.1p, Enterprise Oil, 19p to 396p, Ranger Oil, 10p to 408p, Laxmo, 8p to 198p, after going ex-dividend, and Shell, 16p to 457p.

American securities houses are taking an optimistic line on the oil industry and are rating the leading players in it higher than many of their British counterparts are prepared to. Securities houses such as Salomon Brothers, the New York securities house, have been big buyers of BP lately. Rival Wertheim Schroder was also pushing the shares yesterday.

Since the beginning of March, the number of American investors owning BP shares has grown about 4 per cent to 11 per cent. They are unperturbed by the group's uncovered dividend and dull prospects for the oil price generally, and prefer to compare the shares along with other global companies. County NatWest WoodMac

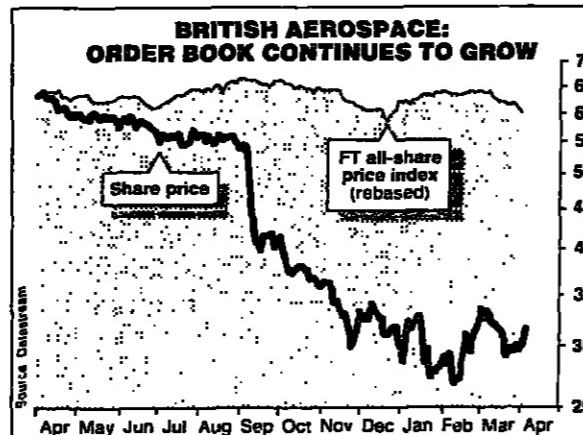
the London broker, believes slower growth, increased Opec capacity and rising non-Opec production suggest that real oil prices of below \$20 a barrel are here to stay. It is still forecasting an average price of \$18 for this year and has cut its forecast for next year by \$1 to \$19.

Elsewhere, share prices climbed back above the 2,400 level, helped by weekend polls showing the Conservatives still in the race. However, many dealers seem to be taking the view that a hung parliament will be the eventual outcome and further falls may be on the way. A lot will depend on the performance of the pound just after April 9.

The FT-SE 100 index ended the session just below its best of the day, registering a rise of 18.2 points to 2,400.9. However, conditions remain nervous and little genuine retail demand has emerged. This was reflected in a low turnover figure of 411 million shares.

Much of the early running yesterday was made by the June series of financial futures, with some investors happy to believe that the market had seen the worst of recent falls. Market-makers were also using the future to hedge their positions. They are anxious to maintain level books until the election result is known.

All the same, it was a robust start to the new account from



the equity market, which also had to contend with a heavy number of ex-dividends among the top 100 companies equivalent to a fall of 18.2 points to 2,400.9. This was reflected in a low turnover figure of 411 million shares.

One company hoping to benefit if prospects for increased spending on the health service become reality is Intercare, the oral, dental and medical services group. Under its new management, the group has made a number of key acquisitions and last week reported a rise in full-year pre-tax profits of £60.000 to £410.127. Pre-tax profits of more than £2 million have been pencilled in for this year.

Guinness, down 5p at 535p, Pearson, up 20p at 575p, Bowater, 20p lower at 663p, Unilever, 10p cheaper at 898p, Sun Alliance, 12p off at 229p, and ECC, 9p off at 508p.

The futures market also influenced government securities, which ended with falls of 18.2 points to 2,400.9. The futures market also influenced government securities, which ended with falls of 18.2 points to 2,400.9.

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317p, after briefly touching 330p, hoping to benefit from the second phase of the Saudi Arabian Al-Yamamah defence contract, now to proceed. Saudi Arabia says it will make a £1.5 billion cash contribution towards the contract, which is estimated to be worth £20 billion.

The news will provide a timely boost for BAe shares.

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Local banks and financial institutions that are already under pressure may be forced sellers of more equities in an attempt to redress their financial ratios.

Foreign investors in Japanese stock market, measured by the Nikkei stock average, fell a further 1 per cent last

week and is now more than 50 per cent down from its 1989 peak.

Analysis fear that the steady sneakout in Japanese equities is not over yet, and may even get worse.

Local banks and financial institutions that are already under pressure may be forced sellers of more equities in an attempt to redress their financial ratios.

The message of one particular fund launched in 1991 stated: "We believe that the Japanese equity market is, or is close to, bottoming out and that long-term investors

should now reconsider their weightings in Japan." But that is now looking a little hollow.

Campbell Gunn, investment adviser at Kleinwort Benson Investment Management — which launched a Japanese warrant fund at £10.50 last year, and whose price was \$4.85 last week — says that although it is fashionable to measure the Japanese stock market by the Nikkei, the Topix index has shown a less starting 26 per cent fall April-on-April, and that all warrant funds have suffered in the wake.

The Topix represents most of the 1,223 shares listed on the market's first sector and has a heavier weighting in banks.

However, Kleinwort Benson's fund has not had any redemptions so far this year, and has attracted investment money from other funds that have performed more poorly.

The current worth of the fund, at \$21 million compares reasonably favourably with a peak valuation of \$30 million, Mr Gunn said.

Warrant funds, he says, are defensive vehicles and should be seen as a long-dated call option on the market.

Investors have to decide whether the Japanese stock market will go up by 25 per cent in the next, say, three and a half years — or not.

ain's thousands of small ticket retail outlets in the hands of the C2s, Ds and Es means the reverse applies.

T&S Stores, which has nearly 600 such outlets under the Superdills and Diltons names, looks particularly well placed. The company sees its future in converting traditional, small CTVs (confectioner, tobacco and newsagents), and off-licences into convenience stores offering a basic range of food products. Last year, the company increased its number of convenience store outlets to 80, and in the process sales rose 63 per cent and operating margins 1 per cent.

Kevin Threlfall, the T&S chairman, faces the choice of expanding the convenience store division through piece-meal acquisition or by taking the plunge with a big purchase. The latter prospect unnervered the market yesterday, and the shares lost 4p to 195p. That seems a little uncharitable as the company has an excellent track record on acquisitions, having doubled its size with the £54 million Diltons and Preedy deal in 1989.

Analysts are forecasting further growth in the current year with pre-tax profits increasing from £13.4 million to perhaps £14.5 million. On earnings of about 16p that would put the shares on a rating of 12 times, below the average for the stocks sector of 15 times. For investors worried about the state of the market on Friday, the shares look a sound political hedge.

### WORLD MARKETS

#### Oil strength helps Dow

**N**ew York — Blue chip issues advanced in morning trading, helped by gains in the oil sector. Texaco, Exxon and Walt Disney posted strong gains, helping the Dow Jones industrial average rise 10.51 points to 3,259.62. Analysts said that the oil sector is traditionally the last group to rally before a correction.

□ Frankfurt — Shares rose

0.9 per cent on the back of state election results that were as bad as the market had expected. A strong vote for the far right and the loss for the Christian Democratic Union of its last majority in a west German state left the market unmoved. The Dax index rose 14.99 points to 1,734.62.

(Reuters)

#### Nikkei fall continues

**T**okyo — The Nikkei index succumbed to Monday morning blues and closed down in latters trade, though the broader market held on to modest gains. Brokers said index-linked selling put pressure on prices, while most investors stayed on the sidelines amid continuing doubts

(Reuters)

□ Hong Kong — The Hang Seng Index closed at 4,896.90, down 19.8 points.

(Reuters)

□ Paris — The CAC 40 index closed at 3,436.30, up 1.11 points.

(Reuters)

□ London — The FT-SE 100 index closed at 2,400.9, up 18.2 points.

(Reuters)

□ Sydney — The All Ordinaries index closed at 1,014.1, up 1.1 points.

(Reuters)

□ Seoul — The KOSPI index closed at 1,014.1, up 1.1 points.

(Reuters)

□ Tokyo — The Nikkei index closed at 3,259.62, up 10.51 points.

(Reuters)

□ New York — The Dow Jones industrial average closed at 3,259.62, up 10.51 points.

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## COMMENT

## Markets see no need for panic

**F**ew people in the financial markets would be genuinely surprised if Neil Kinnock crossed the threshold of Downing Street, however much they regret the prospect. Why, then, should a change of government signal the widely expected run on sterling? Money and foreign exchange markets are thought particularly vulnerable to changes in government, because they are influenced directly by short-term policy measures. Bond and equity prices, by contrast, are driven primarily by long-term economic prospects. Yet in this election, interest and exchange rates may be less at risk than long bond yields and equity prices, thanks to totem of the ERM to which all parties bow.

Investors may want to test a new government's commitment to ERM membership, but who is going to stake really big money on this test? Many fundamental doubters have made their exit already, contributing to the sharp drop in gilt-edged prices in the past three weeks. With sterling already so close to its ERM floor, short-term speculators would have to count on a realignment within weeks to make good profits.

The chances of any incoming government eating its pledges and devaluing so quickly are minimal. Even if the medium-term prospects for the British economy and sterling were completely grim, the government would make good use of the plentiful foreign exchange reserves as a first defence and expect support from other ERM members, most of whose currencies also rely on the credibility of the ERM safety net. If intervention failed, Britain would raise its interest rates long before considering devaluation. The pre-emptive increase discussed in the City might, however, prove unnecessary, even counter-productive. Why should a government play its trump card before speculators show their rather weaker hand? Indeed, traders might well decide that shorting sterling immediately after the election was a mug's game.

## Voters hit EMU

**E**urope's citizens may not be voting on the issue of economic and monetary union, but their decisions are questioning its progress. The economic message from the elections is unambiguous: France is jittering, Germany is swaying and Italy wobbling. Italy was never likely to have reduced government borrowing to the Maastricht limit of an underlying 3 per cent by 1997-9. At least it could have made visible progress in that direction. With no firm government in place, spending cuts are much harder to implement. Germany's fallible management of unification has already tarnished its reputation for economic soundness. Political stability could be the price. After yesterday's strong showing by ultra-right parties, Helmut Kohl lost his last regional west German power base, and much personal credibility.

The architects of the Maastricht deal, François Mitterrand, Herr Kohl, Giulio Andreotti and John Major, have all suffered falls in popularity due to recession and their countries are becoming more introspective. Germany has yet to ratify the agreement, which will be no walkover given the shift in parliamentary power. As Europe's economies grow more slowly, fewer countries will be able to meet the Maastricht convergence tests; even Germany might miss the target. Without Germany, there will be no single currency. To keep Italy out might be economically easy but would be politically dangerous. Unless there is a return to stability, the introduction of a European single currency by the end of this decade should not be taken for granted.

Continental experience  
would indicate that  
Labour's pay plan and  
Tory opposition is  
much ado about  
nothing, says  
Wolfgang Münchau

**L**andmark changes in social policy have never been introduced without furious protests. Be it the abolition of slavery, the introduction of health and safety legislation, or equal pay for women: each time fears were raised that such policies would be inflationary and damaging to the country's competitiveness. Some people might want to draw parallels with the arguments raging in Britain today over a statutory minimum wage.

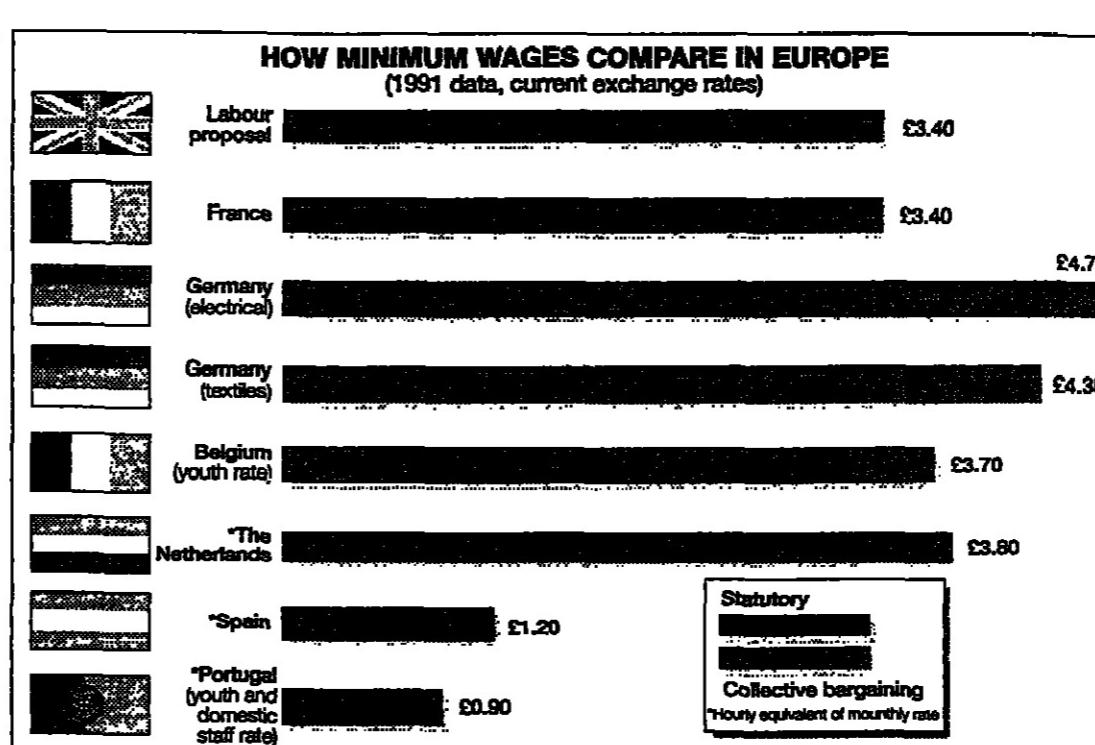
Rules or agreements imposing minimum wages are commonplace in the European Community and also exist in America. Even in Britain, wages have been fixed by statutory bodies in some traditional low-wage industries for three generations. The debate is about whether Britain should follow suit in imposing a general minimum wage. The Labour party thinks it should, and plans to introduce a minimum wage at £3.40 an hour, equivalent to about half the average of male earnings.

The most unedifying aspect of this debate is the way everybody seems to exaggerate the measure's likely impact. Supporters claim it would improve the living conditions of the poor dramatically. Opponents say it would render the British economy uncompetitive and would lead to a massive rise in unemployment.

The experience of a minimum wage in Europe would suggest that neither claim is true. The social justice claim is exaggerated, while assertions that a minimum wage would wreck the economy do not bear comparison. Those who make such claims rely on the assumption that the economic effects of a minimum wage are predictable. This is not so.

Since the majority of economists have proved incompetent even at forecasting the rate of economic growth over a 12-month period, one should treat with suspicion claims that they can predict accurately the effects of a policy whose outcome would become visible only in the medium term and which depends entirely on how employers will react to it. The problem of forecasting the impact of minimum wages is well established, and any serious analysis of this subject carries a methodological health warning.

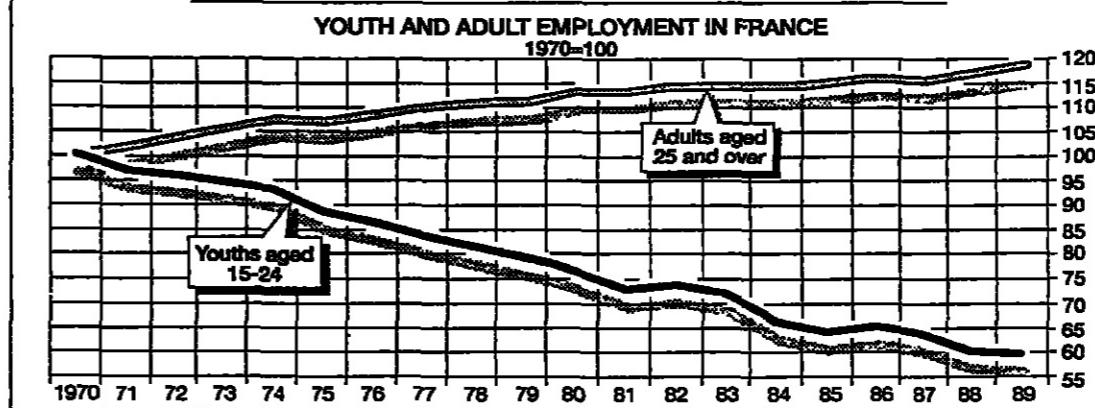
This minor inconvenience has not deterred some from producing wild claims about the direct reduction in employment resulting from a £3.40 minimum wage. These estimates range from 8,800 (Liverpool university), to 49,100 (City university) or 102,400 (the Treasury). The Confederation of British Industry even claimed that unemployment would



differentials is thought to be marginal in industry, although there might be a problem in the public service, especially the national health service, where pay is strictly graded. Comparisons with France, however, would not support the differential theory. France has lower average wage for production workers than Britain, despite the minimum wage.

There is, however, a big difference between continuing a minimum wage regime and introducing one. If employers pass on the extra costs in higher prices, a minimum wage could prove inflationary, but no more than a rise in VAT, and the rise in inflation should be temporary. Unemployment might go up to some extent, or profits might come down, or both.

Only a few, not necessarily well-performing, industries, would be hit. The impact on the economy as a whole is likely to be limited. Positive impulses would come from greater purchasing power and higher tax revenues. The combined effect of all these measures would be difficult to predict.



**M**ost of the reputable economic analysis on the subject concludes with ample health warnings about methodology, that the overall economic impact of a minimum wage is small. Equally, there is little evidence that a minimum wage has any measurable effect in eradicating poverty, as its proponents claim.

According to a study by Paul Gregg for the *National Institute Economic Review*, the national minimum wage is well-targeted only for the poorest families, where at least one member is at work. "However, a national minimum wage is weakly targeted on all poor families for the reason that most are poor as a result of not having a job." Confirming the experience in France, Mr Gregg comes to the conclusion that "targeting on families who are likely to spend long periods in poverty would be much improved by a reduced rate for youths that is related to their age. This would also reduce the cost to the economy by around a quarter".

In view of the great amount of research on the subject, the Institute for Personnel Management said that "if more comprehensive legislation on minimum wages were to be introduced, the way in which it was done would be critically important in ensuring that the objectives were achieved and adverse effects kept to a minimum". The way a minimum wage hits employment would depend on how quickly it is introduced, whether it allows for some loopholes, for certain industries and young employees.

In this respect, Labour's proposal to fix the statutory minimum wage at 50 per cent of average male earnings for all sectors of the economy appears crude. Provided the edges of such could be smoothed, continental experience shows that the effects of a minimum wage are neither extraordinarily bad nor good. As long as it is intelligently applied, a minimum wage regime does no great harm.

soar by 150,000, and Michael Howard, employment secretary, suggested an ultimate figure of about 2 million, including indirect effects. Any serious amateur could join them: just pick an average-sized telephone number, divide by 2,00, or 200, depending on party affiliation; and if you are the careful type, make sure you pick a generous margin of error, and you are there.

A better way of finding out about the minimum wage is to look at the situation elsewhere in Europe and draw qualitative rather than quantitative conclusions. From a British point of view, the most comparable country is probably France, where a minimum wage is statutory, as proposed by Labour and not based on industry-wide agreements as is common in Germany. The French minimum wage works out at about equivalent to Labour's proposal of £3.40 an hour. In Germany, the effective minimum wage is about £1 higher, the precise amount depending on region and industry.

The French *Salaire Minimum Interprofessionnel de Croissance (SMIC)* regime was introduced in 1950. President Mitterrand raised the SMIC 10 per cent when he came to power in 1981, and each year the minimum wage goes up by at least the rate of inflation, though it can be more. In 1989, about 8.2 per cent of the workforce benefited from the

SMIC provisions. In France, the SMIC is not a contentious policy, and is broadly supported by employers, unions and the main political parties alike. The debate tends to focus on the level, rather than the necessity, of the minimum wage.

**F**rance has a problem of youth unemployment, as the chart illustrates, although the official youth unemployment rate has improved considerably since 1985. According to an analysis by Stephen Bazen and John Martin, published in *OECD Economic Studies* a year ago, a minimum wage increased youth unemployment to some extent. There are still doubts about cause and effect.

We have not been able to establish satisfactorily, however, that increases in real youth labour costs have had a negative impact on youth employment — even though we believe this to be the case," they wrote. Notably, the impact of a minimum wage on adult employment "appears to be zero".

The results are broadly in line with the experience in America, a country which, free-market traditions notwithstanding, also operates a statutory minimum wage, although at a lower level than in France. The consensus among American economists was that "increases in the federal minimum

wage have had small negative effects on teenage unemployment".

In both cases, a minimum wage does not appear to threaten adult employment but has a small effect on youth unemployment (15 to 24-year-olds). It has, however, a large effect on youth earnings. The authors recommend that the rise in minimum wages should lag behind average earnings, or that "special sub-minimum wages for young workers" should be introduced.

This has happened to some extent in France, where the government introduced special training and community work schemes at pay rates below the minimum wage. This amounts to differential pay scales and may be one of the factors that has led to a fall in French youth unemployment from 34 per cent in 1985 to 18.4 per cent in 1989. The problem with a statutory minimum wage is that it tends not to take account of regional and industrial differences. In Germany, minimum wages form part of industry-wide bargaining agreements and these differ for each region and industry. There are also loopholes. Only 90 per cent of the workforce is covered by these agreements.

Opponents argue that a minimum wage would set in motion a wage-price spiral, because higher groups would want to maintain wage differentials. The effect of differentials is thought to be marginal in industry, although there might be a problem in the public service, especially the national health service, where pay is strictly graded. Comparisons with France, however, would not support the differential theory. France has lower average wage for production workers than Britain, despite the minimum wage.

There is, however, a big difference between continuing a minimum wage regime and introducing one. If employers pass on the extra costs in higher prices, a minimum wage could prove inflationary, but no more than a rise in VAT, and the rise in inflation should be temporary. Unemployment might go up to some extent, or profits might come down, or both.

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## THE TIMES



## CITY DIARY

## Moore is top down under

**I**S THERE no stopping Nick Moore, one of the City's more extrovert commodities analysts? Moore, who works for Ord Minnett, the stockbroking arm of Westpac, Australia's biggest bank, has just become the first non-Australian to be voted a number one analyst by Australian institutions. "I was amazed at how perceptive they were," says Moore, aged 32, who took over the chairmanship of the Association of Mining Analysts from Rob Davies, of Lehman International, in January, and has just returned from a trip down under. He won his accolade from *Australian Business Monthly*, a financial magazine, which referred in passing to "the gregarious Nick Moore". In true antipodean style, he has since received several letters of congratulation addressed to "Greg Moore". Such slips aside, he firmly believes that base metals are about to boom, and is eagerly looking forward to his third triumph — his wife, Eleanor, is expecting their second baby in May.

## Toast to Lloyd's

**H**AVING cancelled holidays and cut back on the dinner parties, stricken members of Lloyd's are now making the ultimate sacrifice — they are selling off their wine cellars. One of the gainers is Richard Harvey-Jones of Suffolk, who is proving as successful in the wine trade as his namesake is in the world of television and consultancy. "There has been quite a pick-up in selling off cellars," says Harvey-Jones, who recently snapped up



last Thursday? The answer is yes," he adds. "Would have I gone back five years?" The answer is no. "The five weeks of the campaign, he says, "were the longest five weeks of my life."

**OVERHEARD** at a client seminar in the City: "When a company hit by recession has lost direction there are only two ways to recover — change the management or change the management."

## Beating the drum

**A**SPRING City oarsmen who watched Saturday's boat race and felt a yearning to be back behind the paddle can sign up for this summer's Dragon Boat Race on the Isle of Dogs. The charity event is being co-ordinated by Olympic oarsman Chris Baileau and Rosie Randolph, wife of Robert Randolph, the London business development director of Matheson Securities, the stockbroking arm of Jardine Matheson. Proceeds will go to the Trireme Trust, which raises money for a more unusual boating event — the Aegean sea trials of the Olympias, a working reconstruction of the most famous of ancient Greek warships. Matheson Securities is putting up a team of 16 oarsmen and Alasdair Villiers, aged 53, the managing director, is taking on the roll of time-beating drummer. According to Robert Randolph, Villiers has taken to doing his drum practice first thing every morning. "There's an impressive rhythm reverberating around St Helen's Place — he's quite clearly a natural," Randolph says.

## Telling thoughts

**L**ORD Young of Graftham, who left politics in 1990 to become chairman of Cable and Wireless, enjoyed a break from the election. A director of the Royal Opera House Trust, he was spotted visiting Rossini's *William Tell* in a box at the Royal Opera House last Thursday. Lord Young admits that as the curtain went up at the Opera House his thoughts were very much on the 1987 election — perhaps harking back to "wobbly Thursday" when the Tories thought they might fail. Lord Young took over at the time with an eleventh-hour advertising campaign that many thought saved the day. "Was I thinking about it

JON ASHWORTH

## Oiling the 'innovation machine'

From Mr Geoffrey Vincent

Sir, Your article "Survivors try to make the cellular telephone upwardly mobile again" (Business News, April 1) well illustrates the pitfalls facing those who launch innovative products and services — especially telecommunications services. But if they do not do so, we will all be the poorer.

The DTI's initiative in licensing new "personal communications" services — both telepoint and PCN — has had repercussions around the world. Some 15-20 countries are experimenting in different ways for telepoint in the UK, and others are planning to introduce services related to PCN.

The intent behind this initiative — to provide improved telecommunications services to a wider market, at a lower cost — can only be applauded. Nevertheless, the way the drama has been played out in the UK has left companies and investors reeling hurt to lick their wounds, and an understandable reluctance, with some honourable exceptions, to re-enter the fray.

It would be a pity if UK industry, having suffered the initial battle scars, left the field clear for others in France, Hong Kong, the USA and Japan to reap the benefit. It is in all our interests to have UK companies succeed in what will be a growth area on a global scale over the next decade.

Successful innovation — turning ideas into profitable business — involves a complex interaction between industry, government, the financial community and end users. Each of these plays an essential role, but none of them can succeed alone. To bring the UK's "innovation

machine" up to the standard of those of Japan and Germany, we need an extensive and public debate on how innovation works.

The UK is a prolific source of ideas (and personal communications is a good idea that will make millions for some). Too often, these ideas flow directly into the smoothly running innovation machines of other economies.

Protection will not work: the only solution open to us is to overhaul our own machinery for innovation — and the first step is to understand why and how it breaks down. Your article is a helpful contribution.

Yours faithfully,  
GEOFFREY VINCENT  
(Business Development  
Director, Information  
Industry),  
PA Consulting Group,  
Cambridge Laboratory,  
Royston,  
Hertfordshire.

## Chairmen's pay

From T. M. Baring

Sir, It is time to stop the periodic uproar over company chairmen's salaries. Could not the CBI establish a code of rules on the following lines?

Large increase in salary should only be made when large profits warrant. There should be no increase at all in a year when the chairman exhorts his workers to restrain their wage demands, or when large numbers of previously loyal workers are being shed.

If all companies followed these simple guidelines, much heat would be taken out of labour and shareholder relations.

Yours faithfully,  
T. M. BARING,  
Westhay House,  
Hawkhurst,  
Azmister,  
Devon.

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Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms Name \_\_\_\_\_ Surname \_\_\_\_\_

Street \_\_\_\_\_ Town \_\_\_\_\_ County \_\_\_\_\_ Postcode \_\_\_\_\_

Phone No. \_\_\_\_\_ Providing for how many children? \_\_\_\_\_

Relationship to child: Parent/Guardian \_\_\_\_\_ Grandparent \_\_\_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_\_

Are you interested in tax-exempt savings for yourself? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

THE TIMES UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE

# Portfolio

PLATINUM

For your Portfolio Platinum card check your eight share price movements on this page only. Add them up to give you your overall gain or loss. If it's a loss, you have won outright or a share of the daily price money market. If it's a gain, add the day's price movements to the total of your card. Always leave your card available when claiming. Game rules appear on the back of your card.

No	Company	Group	Date or Issue
1	Albert Fisher	Foods	
2	Next	Dispensary Sys	
3	Cable Wires	Electrical	
4	Aero Wiggin	Paper/Pint	
5	Laporte	Chemical Plus	
6	North West	Water	
7	Quasar	Paper/Pint	
8	Asus New Z	Books/Div	
9	THORN EMI	Electrical	
10	Caterpillar Trac	Tractors	
11	NFLK Soc	Books/Div	
12	Anglo	People	
13	Amstrad	Software	
14	Land Sec	Property	
15	Martin Spencer	Dispensary Sys	
16	Midkiss	Building/Rds	
17	Staudt Chm	Books/Div	
18	Nova Inv	Newspaper/Pub	
19	Wherry G	Building/Rds	
20	De La Rue	Industrial	
21	Portsmouth Sound	Newspaper/Pub	
22	MPEC	Property	
23	Voguer Thermo	Industrial	
24	Southern Pipe	Property	
25	Lloyd	Building/Rds	
26	Woodhead Pds	Foodst	
27	Pilkington	Industrial	
28	Black Session	Books/Div	
29	Ensigncom Uo	Transport	
30	Johnson Mat	Industrial	
31	Delta	Electrical	
32	Unit Beams	Foods	
33	Trelleborg H	Industrial	
34	Yorkshire W	Water	
35	Barrings	Books/Div	
36	BT	Electrical	
37	Rock Corp	Industrial	
38	Bruker Hill	Industrial	
39	MB-Cimcun	Industrial	
40	Modex	Industrial	
41	Smurfit Jeff	Paper/Pint	
42	Redland	Building/Rds	
43	Uniglobe	Foods	
44	Jardine Math	Industrial	
© Times Newspapers Ltd. Total			

Please take into account any minus signs

Weekly Dividend					
Please make a note of your daily totals for the weekly dividend of £50,000 in Saturday's newspaper.					
MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT

There were no valid claims for the Portfolio Platinum prize yesterday. The £2,000 will be added to today's competition.

1991/92	High	Low	Company	Price	No	Vid	%	P/E
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BANKS, DISCOUNT, HP

1991/92	High	Low	Company	Price	No	Vid	%	P/E
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BREWERIES

1991/92	High	Low	Company	Price	No	Vid	%	P/E
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BUILDING, ROADS

1991/92	High	Low	Company	Price	No	Vid	%	P/E
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CHIMES, PLASTICS

1991/92	High	Low	Company	Price	No	Vid	%	P/E
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CHEMICALS, PLASTICS

1991/92	High	Low	Company	Price	No	Vid	%	P/E
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DRAPERY, STORES

1991/92	High	Low	Company	Price	No	Vid	%	P/E
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ELECTRICITY

1991/92	High	Low	Company	Price	No	Vid	%	P/E
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FINANCE, LAND

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FOODS

1991/92	High	Low	Company	Price	No	Vid	%	P/E
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FINANCIAL TRUSTS

1991/92	High	Low	Company	Price	No	Vid	%	P/E
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FOODS

1991/92	High	Low	Company	Price	No	Vid	%	P/E
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FOODS

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FOODS

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FOODS

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FOODS

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FOODS

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FOODS

1991/92	High	Low	Company	Price	No	Vid	%	P/E
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FOODS

1991/92	High	Low	Company	Price

## WHICH COMPUTER

# Help! We need some buyers

**Matthew May observes how the recession is making computer companies attentive to the market**

**R**ecession is doing strange things to the computer industry. Visitors to this week's Which Computer show, for example, may be accosted by an IBM salesperson wearing a badge with the motif, "Can I Help You?"

This is part of a new resolve by IBM, whose sales of personal computers have been battered by competitors, that it is going to be helpful. Never a company to do things by halves, IBM will use the show today to announce "Helpware", a campaign including television advertisements to the strains of the relevant Beatles song, help finance, help trade-in, help telephone hotline and even a quarterly magazine called *Help*.

"No matter when you need help — whether on Christmas Day or 3am on a Sunday — someone who speaks your language, not baffling computer jargon, will be there to listen and help," says a pilot issue of the magazine.

Features in future issues will be colour-coded according to difficulty, ranging from green (easy) to blue (medium) and black (hard). Articles such as "Would Arnold Schwarzenegger be half the man without computer graphics?" and "Master your own bit single in one hour" are promised.

Like others, IBM has decided to target the consumer market, though for the world's largest computer company this is a term "that includes small businesses with up to ten personal computer users", says Howard Ford, the personal systems director.

IBM has realised that its former attitude, which may be kindly described as being somewhat aloof, may not work with those wanting to master a hit single in one hour. The campaign, which will include the metamorphosis of the company's PS/1 range into something called the Easy PC, available next month and starting at about £1,000, explains IBM's first appearance at the show for many years.

The personal computer in-

dustry keeps producing ever more powerful machines faster than customers, certainly at the smaller end of the market, can find affordable uses for it. Makers hope that two technologies may take off in the home — multimedia, which mixes video, sound and graphics, and virtual reality, which promises graphics and action as never before for both games and education.

Both would require customers to buy machines, whatever physical form they eventually take, with considerable processing power.

The importance of the consumer, rather than the corporate market, also features in the latest of another of the industry's trends — alliances.

Apple Computer and Sharp intend to develop pocket devices that mix the power of personal computers with consumer electronics such as compact discs.

Barely a day has passed recently without the announcement of a new alliance. These collaborations are being seen as one way to reduce the risks of operating in a recession. An Ernst & Young survey found that in the United States nine out of ten electronics companies have formed links with others in the field, while moving from emphasising innovation to providing better customer service.

The worst of the recession may be over for the industry. Many computer companies are already hinting that their financial results for the first three months of this year are better than last year's, though still not back to 1989 and 1990 levels.

Some believe almost boom conditions will return and are willing to invest. One sign is the advent of a British arm of the American publishing house Ziff-Davis, which has invested heavily in the launch of two large magazines, *PC Direct* and *PC Magazine*, that each have April issues of nearly 500 pages.

"The personal computer market is poised to explode," says a statement from PC



*Magazine*. "Between now and 1995 there is a further 8.8 million units are expected to be installed in Britain virtually tripling the installed base."

Another glimmer of hope is that demand for semiconductors in the US, the first indication of plans to increase the production of the units that use them, rose 5 per cent in February.

The overall trend has been somewhat cautiously positive," says Mark Giudici, an analyst for the research consultancy Dataquest. Orders should continue to increase in coming months, he says, as stocks are at record lows and a host of new product announcements are expected.

Recession has been good for the customer, however. Manu-

facturers and dealers have been selling personal computers and related equipment at knockdown prices.

Price cuts are slowing and there has been a lull for several weeks. This may mean that the worst, or best, depending on which side of the fence you are on, is over.

If prices are now low enough and economic indicators promising enough to bring back the business customer, manufacturers and software developers need to turn their attention to sorting out their own battles over where the industry is heading.

Attention at the show today will be on the fight between two new software systems that

between them are likely to be running on tens of millions of the world's personal computers during the next few years.

Both IBM's OS/2 version 2, announced last week, and Microsoft's Windows 3.1, officially announced in the US yesterday, are emphasising their ease of use by giving customers the ability to manipulate icons on screen with a mouse rather than typing in commands, as well many other claimed improvements.

IBM again surprised the industry by producing a briefing document on the new operating system well before the official announcement. The move is highly unusual for a company noted for "refusing to speculate on future products". Even more

surprisingly, the announcement explained everything from what an operating system is to admitting to the huge success of Windows.

"Constant bombardment with information on new chips and standards means that the majority of corporate buyers are uncertain what their next step should be," says a Commodore Business Machines survey of 2,000 potential business purchasers. "British companies still want expert guidance through the confusion of present-day developments in personal computers."

Perhaps IBM has got it right after all.

• The Which Computer show is at the National Exhibition Centre, Birmingham, from today until Friday

## High prices are out of fashion as quality improves

Some suppliers take a

vulture-like interest in your computer — quick to call it dead. They blind the gullible with science, rattling on about faster processors inside the latest breed of computer. Then they promise your business a recipe for success if only you will buy their machine. Ignore the hype. Buy what you need, not what the dealer thinks you should have — after all, the choice has never been better.

The industry has provided more and more powerful systems based on the Intel chips and moving through the 286 and 386 to 486. Faster RISC-based processors are on the way. Machines with increasing performance have given many buyers an opportunity for bargains as never before.

Fierce competition among manufacturers is ensuring the continuation of a technology race that produces better value for buyers and slimmer margins for the industry.

Price does not equal quality any more," says Jeremy Davies, a partner at the information consultancy Context. "The personal computer buyer is no longer prepared to pay premium prices for a premium product."

There are signs that many customers are finding medium-power personal computers adequate for their needs despite the eagerness of the main software houses to release packages demanding ever more storage and larger amounts of memory.

"Constant bombardment with information on new chips and standards means that the majority of corporate buyers are uncertain what their next step should be," says a Commodore Business Machines survey of 2,000 potential business purchasers. "British companies still want expert guidance through the confusion of present-day developments in personal computers."

The computer industry has tried to cajole users into buying more power for the same price," says the market researcher Derek Pedder. "But a number of people have decided to stay put with the same and pay less for it."

Since the last market slump seven years ago, there has been a dramatic switch in information technology expenditure from mainframes and minicomputers to personal computers. At IBM, the world's largest computer manufacturer and still the market leader in personal computers, there is little difference between revenues from main-

frames and from personal computers.

Mainframe computer systems have been under pressure from smaller, distributed systems for some time. They are always the first to suffer in any recession because of the large capital outlay involved. A clearly defined band of customers will always demand the highest possible computational power, and mainframes have become more at home in their new role as hubs in the large networks that many organisations now use.

As a result, personal computers have rapidly been replacing traditional computer terminals in mainframe-based computer systems, and are now used instead of minicomputers for departmental and office applications.

Although there is great potential for more workplace computing, the business microcomputer market has become cut-throat.

Mr Davies classifies notebook computers as weighty segment. Analys

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Mr Baile

survive, many dealers must be large enough to supply in volume and at an attractive discount, choose a specialised market and build up expertise. They must also realise they are supplying a public who are now experienced in computing.

CLIVE COULDWELL

'Downsizing' is transferring a great deal of work from mainframes to personal computers, with a few snags

## When small is the only way to go

ONE of the few apparent certainties in the fast-changing world of computers is that processing power will continue to get cheaper.

During the past five years, processor prices have fallen at an annual rate of nearly 40 per cent, says Dataquest, the market research company. In 1987, a machine capable of handling a million instructions per second would have cost at least \$15,000 (£8,600). Today, a desktop PC with twice that performance costs

\$2,000 (£1,150). Powerful low-cost machines save customers money and make possible huge organisational changes — a process known as "downsizing".

In this way users are freed from the control of a data processing department. They have fingertip control of their programs and data on desktop PCs instead of having to give their tasks to the mainframe boffins.

This has been the experience of Tony Haddock, the predictive engineering manager of Perkins Technology, a subsidiary of the engine manufacturing group, which performs consultancy services for the automotive industry.

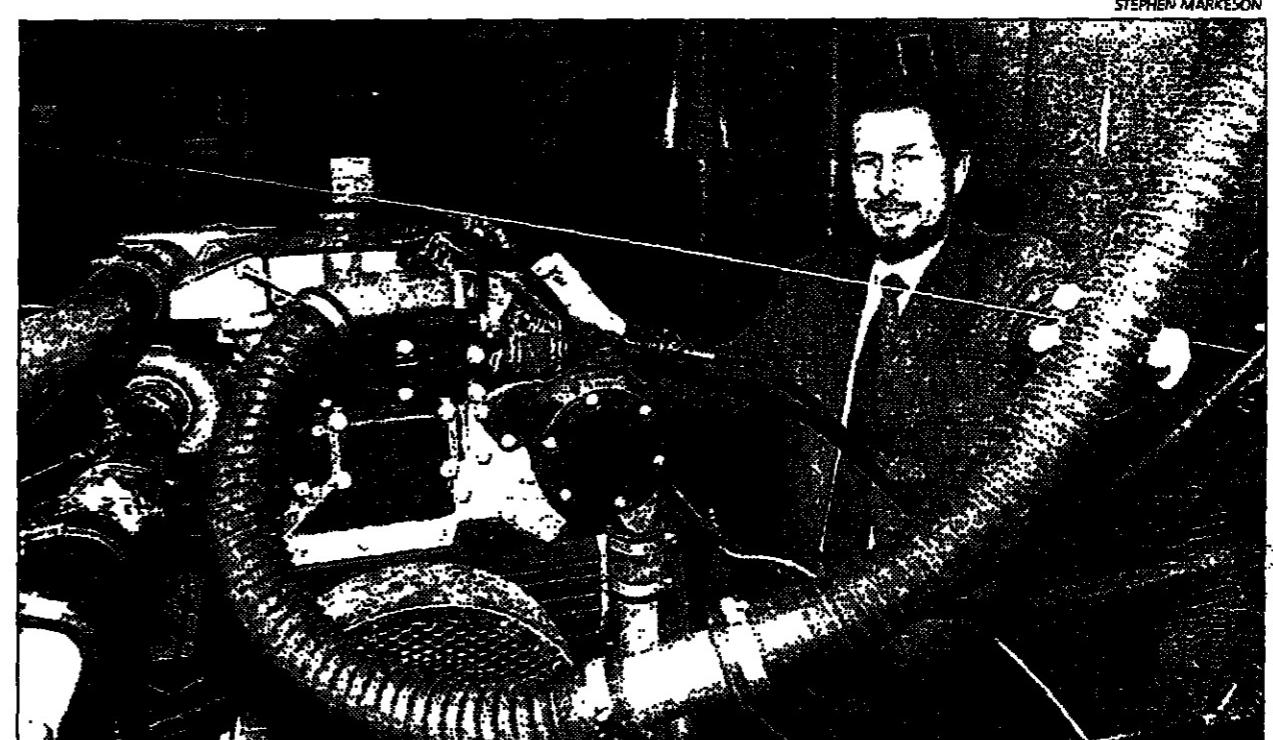
Mr Haddock's team previously used the Perkins corporate IBM mainframe to run its engine simulation and design analysis programs. These are complex calculations for solid modelling and analysis of stress, temperature, flow, performance, noise and vibration. Even a mainframe can spend hours, sometimes days, on such tasks. Mr Haddock's team frequently had to work through nights and weekends to complete their work.

Two years ago Mr Haddock's patience cracked. He says: "The memory requirements for the size of theoretical models we generate had increased to the point where it was no longer cost-effective to continue to use the mainframe on which we were allocated only 40 megabytes of memory. We needed a solution to get us near-instant response."

Mr Haddock bought five workstations and transferred the applications from the mainframe. Though smaller and cheaper, the workstations were much better at fluid dynamics and finite element analyses and improved productivity sharply.

The workstations enabled the engineers to concentrate on the job in hand, instead of splitting tasks while waiting for computer runs.

Mr Haddock was so impressed that he bought ten more workstations at the end



Satisfied customer: Tony Haddock lost patience with the mainframe. Now his team's work is done on workstations

of last year, giving the department 500 megabytes of processor memory, far more than had ever been available on the mainframe. In addition, financing the workstations is estimated at about 20 per cent of the internal charge for using the mainframe.

Chris Ogg at Parceline carried out a downsizing operation to save money, but gained the surprise bonus of a radical improvement in disaster recovery. He says: "By distributing the system, we have almost been able to stop worrying about what happens if something goes wrong. Of course, it matters if one department comes to a standstill, but we have still got 30 locations operational."

For management one of the dangers of downsizing is loss of control.

Go-ahead companies realise they need to devolve responsibility to individuals at the coal face, and downsizing provides an ideal opportunity to do this. Once staff have machines at their fingertips, it becomes difficult to prevent them from experimenting with new software programs or building their own databases, which may be incompatible with the rest of the organisation. Within a short time the order and continuity imposed by many years of centralised data processing control can degenerate into chaos.

The advantages of downsizing depend on an organisation's structures and whether its computing applications can be easily distributed. Mr Stenson believes it would not work for Norwich Union, where computer files contain billions of records.

"I have not found a way of breaking up the data. I cannot imagine how I would distribute that amount of data over anything currently available on the computer market," he says. It is rather like comparing the transporting capabilities of a Mini, a small van and a juggernaut. Although you

could fit lots of Minis loads into a juggernaut, you could not necessarily distribute the contents of a juggernaut in a cavalcade of Minis.

The mainframe may be on the way out, but it is certainly not dead yet.

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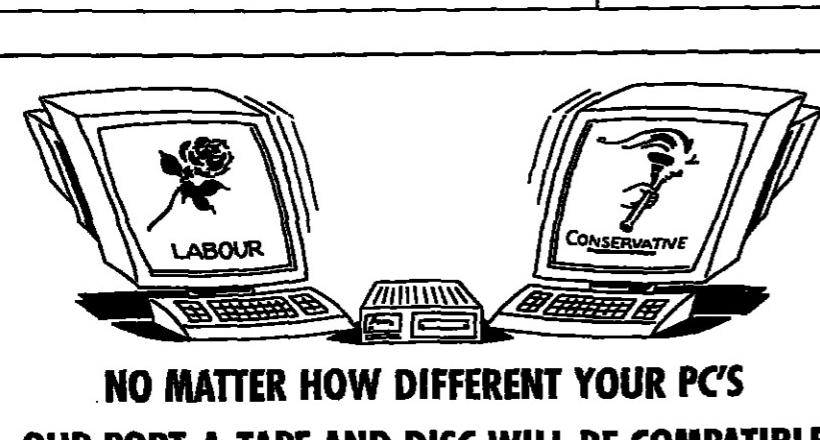
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Joe, my dad

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## The go-anywhere aid

**W**hen the eye surgeon Stephen Bailey cycles between consultations at a London hospital and his private practice, his portable computer goes with him in a pannier on the rear wheel. Mr Bailey uses the machine to analyse information from his clinical studies. The text-processing and graphics are invaluable in preparing his lectures on ocular disease. The machine, an Apple Powerbook, enables him to work on complex illustrations on the move and convert them to colour 35mm film via his desktop Macintosh at home.

"Instead of cramming all my computing into evenings or weekends, I can put in an extra two to three hours a day by making use of spare time between patients or during the lunch hour," he says.

This year, he was in a road accident, the pannier was knocked off his bicycle and a lorry reversed over his computer. Mr Bailey had come to regard the machine as indispensable, so he immediately bought a new and more powerful one and secured his pannier more tightly.

Mr Bailey's portable is of the class known as "electronic notebooks", so called because they are roughly the size and weight of an A4 pad. Notebooks are the fastest-growing segment of the portable computer market.

Analysts expect that by 1994 they will account for three-quarters of portables sold in Europe, about six million machines. The battle between the manufacturers is all the more ferocious because research suggests that users have more influence in choosing their portables than their desktop personal computers.

Mobile professionals are an important market, although the largest number of sales has gone to financial institutions. Insurance salesmen use portables in customers' homes to give instant policy premium figures and maturity values.

The technology, nevertheless, still has drawbacks, the biggest being short battery life. Most notebooks have a practical limit of about three hours' use between recharging, so the batteries could run out on a long train or aircraft journey. Mr Bailey's solution is to carry

Jane Bird meets a busy surgeon, whose computer rides with him through the streets of London

PETER TREVENOR



On the road: Stephen Bailey packs away his computer

a spare battery. If possible, he takes the power lead, too.

One answer to the battery problem is a smaller computer.

There are now many "palmtops", priced from £200, which fit comfortably in a pocket or a handbag and use less power because they use credit-card-sized memory chips instead of floppy discs. More power is saved by not backlitting the screens.

British companies that have pioneered palmtops include Sinclair, Psion and Agenda. One of the most successful is DIP, of Guildford, Surrey, which designed the Atari Portfolio, Pocket PC, and the PC 3000 for Sharp of Japan.

Oliver Tucker, DIP's sales

director, describes the Sharp machine as the "first no-compromise hand-held".

He says: "People say that for the money they could get a 286 notebook with a 20-megabyte hard disc, but this is rubbish. It is like comparing a Porsche with a Mini. If you were driving to Scotland, you might take the powerful car, but for a brief trip to the shops the Mini would be better. With notebooks the maximum memory life you get is three hours. The Sharp gives you 40 hours on three AA batteries."

DIP bases its designs on the observation that people use 10 per cent of the functions 90 per cent of the time.

"When you go out, you need

not take your database of 2,000 contacts, just the 200 you call most frequently," Mr Tucker says. He believes the machine's small size is an advantage. "Four or five pounds might not seem much, but it gets very heavy if you are carrying it around the world," he says.

The other main limitations of portables are the high cost or poor quality of colour screens. Cheap colour is slow and fuzzy, and for good results you really need active matrix thin-film transistor. Manufacturing difficulties with this technology are keeping the cost at about £6,000. Unless you are working on presentations or computer-aided design, it is probably not worth investing in colour at present.

One of the most ingenious ideas in portable computing is the "docking" system. This enables a conventional notebook computer to be inserted into a desktop expansion base like a cassette into a VCR. The notebook then becomes the brains of the desktop machine, but allows the user to operate with full-sized screen, keyboard and mouse.

**T**his approach saves space and money because the user does not have to invest in two processing units. Time is saved because the communications between portable and desktop systems are simplified. Most users, on returning to their offices, have the tedious task of plugging cables into sockets and running a communications program, or transferring data on floppies to update central files.

Security is another drawback. Portables are easy to steal, as an army officer found when he left Gulf war plans in a portable computer in his car boot. In trains and aircraft another passenger can peer over your shoulder. Compaq has incorporated a quick-lock quick-blank facility so that you can wipe the screen.

Portables are, however, still a compromise. They have not caught up with desktops in versatility. Mr Bailey sees a role for both. He says: "I would not use the portable as my only machine because ergonomically it is too restricted, but it complements the desktop machine."

A third coalition, Advanced Computing Environment

Alliances have been set up for the benefit of users but many have doubts

## Who are the winners from cooperation?

**O**ne of the fastest-growing sectors in an otherwise stagnant computer industry is the cross-company alliance. Driven by falling sales, the high cost of research and development and intense competitive pressure, companies that were once deadly rivals are joining hands to exploit their expertise and resources.

Officially the aim is not only to achieve joint development and minimise costs but also to indicate to customers what the future holds and to establish a standard around which products will be built.

The attempts to establish standards, however, often conflict and are dictated more by fitting in with the existing products and direction of the participating companies than by agreement.

Unix International and the Open Software Foundation (OSF) were formed in 1988 to promote a standard for the Unix operating system. The former was backed by AT&T, the owner of Unix, Sun Microsystems and several software companies. The OSF had the support of IBM, Digital Equipment, Hewlett-Packard and other hardware heavyweights. The two, however, espoused different standards and a wide gulf still separates them.

Some people believe that, far from promoting a standard to benefit the customer, such alliances actually impede technological progress.

Peter Gottlieb, the chairman of Uniforum UK, a users' group for Unix customers says:

"The effect of such alliances is the slowing-down of the arrival of technology and with it cheaper prices and better performance for customers. That keeps the manufacturers' proprietary systems selling. Users face a very difficult business environment and they cannot wait for the computer industry to tell them what to do."

A third coalition, Advanced Computing Environment

(ACE) has emerged from the OSF with the intention of creating a standard Unix environment for the desktop with the support of such companies as Compaq, Digital Equipment and Olivetti.

However, Lance Allen, Olivetti's marketing manager, says: "There is a big advantage to the customer if a group of suppliers gets together to define a standard. It is a way of establishing the standard more quickly than by letting one emerge."

**M**r Gottlieb replies: "It is companies not consortia that set standards." He cites Novell in the networking market, Microsoft in the PC operating systems market and Sun in the Unix market as companies that have introduced products defining the standards.

Mr Gottlieb's views are broadly shared by Apple Computer, itself a member of both Unix International and the OSF, though not of the ACE consortium.

Steve Everhard, an Apple marketing manager, says: "ACE can be seen as a stalling tactic by the manufacturers because it cannot produce a product quickly and customers will delay purchasing. Effectively, it is holding the market at the current level."

Apple has allied itself with IBM to develop a new operating system for the desktop. The companies have formed a joint company with initial funding of \$2 billion (£1.16 billion) to develop the operating system based around object-oriented technology.

An important difference between the IBM-Apple alliance and the consortia is that the two companies have put a definite time scale on delivery of their products.

The IBM-Apple alliance has already started to deliver some products to connect equipment more easily but the operating system is not planned for delivery until



Steve Everhard at Apple: looking forward to 1995

the future. There is a strong feeling, however, that some of the alliances slow the introduction of new standards and technologies and have also been used by their members as an additional marketing arm of the suppliers.

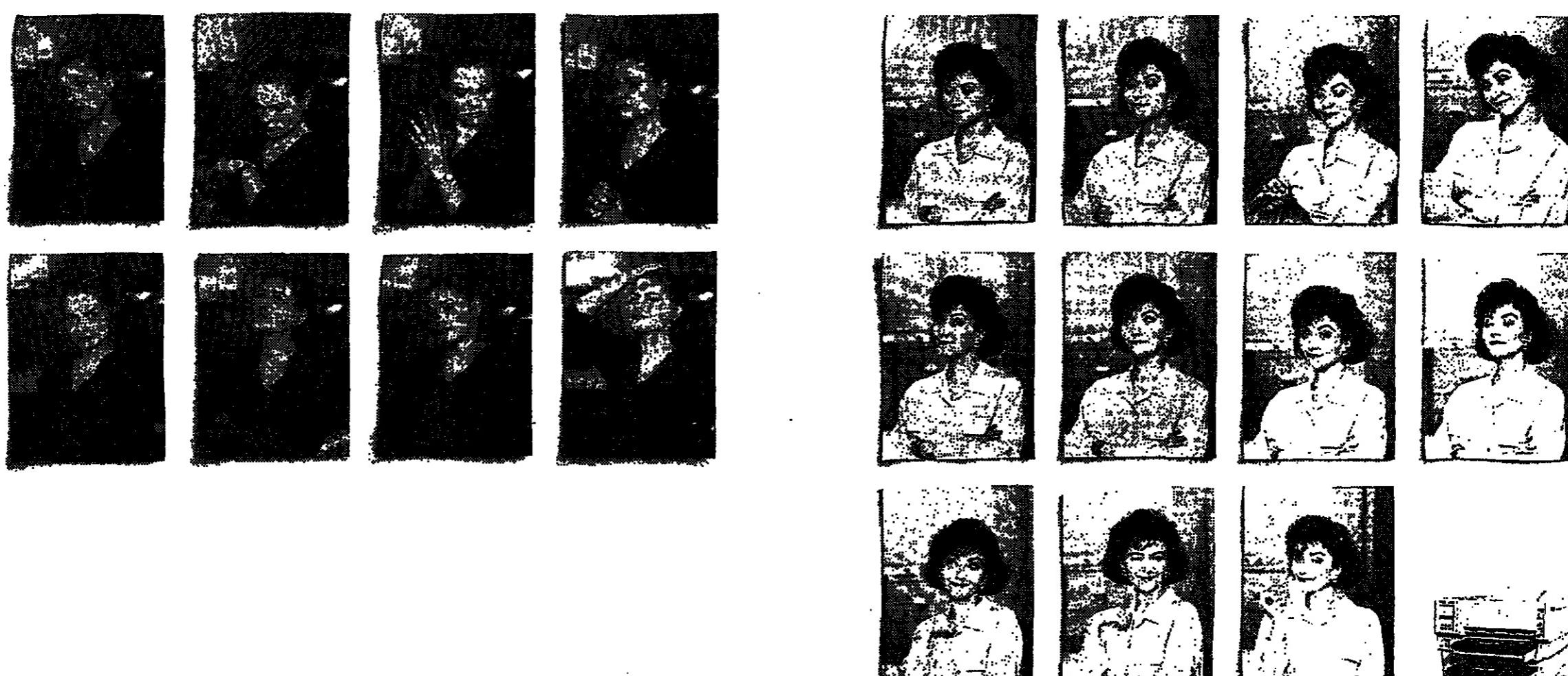
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# Taking care to keep on running

**Geof Wheelwright** considers the best arrangements for after-sales care

Personal computer manufacturers are beginning to realize that they may have missed a crucial step in making their products "user-friendly". Although the increased use of picture-based software has generally made PCs simpler to operate, the same does not hold true for maintaining and repairing.

Whom do you call when your computer packs up? How much should you be expected to pay? Until recently, the only answer was to pay for an extended service contract or to take the machine to your dealer.

Service contracts, however, can be expensive. Some manufacturers have responded by offering longer warranty periods. Tandon, in Redditch, Worcestershire, for example, recently began advertising a three-year warranty on some models, including a portable. Portable computers can

bring their own problems — although they are rugged, they are more likely to be damaged because they are frequently moved.

Compaq Computer offers its users a "worldwide warranty identification card" which should allow them to get immediate service on their systems in 66 countries. Its arch-rival, Dell, has also made a great play of its worldwide service facilities for portable computer users.

Of course you get what you pay for and those selling the dearer brands will often tell you that you are paying the extra money for better service. Even long-established companies that had until recently been able to trade on their name alone are now having to look at improving service.

IBM, for example, recently established a hotline service in the United States to serve direct sales customers better, while Compaq has beefed up



Getting it right: Gero Orlando, an Amstrad design engineer, works on a hard disc drive assembly

its hotline and service systems in Britain. Compaq has also announced an authorisation scheme for those wishing to provide contract support services. They will be required to offer 24-hour, on-site maintenance within four hours of a call, and maintain a customer support hotline.

The real point about maintenance contracts, however, may be whether you need them at all. Old-style maintenance contracts, where you

pay a fee based on a percentage of your computer's total worth, are becoming a little meaningless. If, for example, you paid £4,000 for a computer based on the 386 chip four years ago you may have a maintenance contract costing 10 per cent of the value of that system per year after the original one-year warranty expires. By now you would have spent £1,200 in maintenance fees, yet the resale value would be less than

£1,000 and a smart PC shopper could find a similar new system for less than £1,000.

The real value of many PCs lies in the data they hold — recreating it could cost far more than replacing the computer. In most cases, the money spent on an expensive maintenance contract would be far better spent on buying a good backup system to make regular "security" copies of data.

## Leaders go into battle

This is the age of software but makers disagree on standards

If the 1980s were the decade when personal computer hardware took hold of many working lives, the 1990s are fast becoming the decade of software, writes **Geof Wheelwright**. In particular, this is the decade of the "operating system", the layer of special software that turns users' commands into something it can understand.

Often that operating system is now based on using pictures to issue commands. To see the contents of a floppy disc, you use a "mouse" to point at a floppy disc picture on screen.

To print a document, you take a picture representing the document and "drag" it across the screen to a picture representing the printer.

Computer makers, however, do not agree on which standard for operating systems will prevail. The industry leaders, IBM, Microsoft and Apple, all have different operating systems to accomplish much the same task and there will be no peace in the computer industry until one of them comes out the winner. Many thought the issue had been largely resolved ten years ago when IBM and Microsoft combined to produce PC-DOS. However, the operating system debate recently reopened.

IBM is now backing its proprietary OS/2 picture-based system. A second version was recently announced. Microsoft, IBM's former ally, wants everybody to use its hugely successful Windows 3 system and a soon-to-be-announced special edition of that operating environment known as Windows NT.

Apple Computer continues to plough a lone furrow with System 7, a new operating system for the Apple Macintosh computer. To confuse matters further, Unix, the avowed choice of those selling

"graphics workstations", is fast coming up as a competitor with graphical versions.

Even within Unix, supposedly based on the same standards, there is incompatibility. Steve Jobs, Apple's co-founder and former chairman, has produced an impressive operating system with his present company. Next, there could even be more choice as former arch-rivals IBM and Apple have decided to work together on the Power PC.

IBM's long-awaited OS/2 2.0 was announced last month, but there is no sign that it will be more successful than previous versions of IBM's "alternative" PC operating system. IBM's systems will run all the main applications based on PC-DOS but also Windows 3.0 applications without modification. IBM has gained support from key applications software and system software developers, including Lotus, Borland and Novell. IBM claims that it runs Windows applications faster than Windows 3.0, and is easier to use than either Windows or previous versions of OS/2.

Even if the claims are true, it would take a great deal to slow the Windows 3 bandwagon. More than nine million copies have been sold and a new version, 3.1, has been available since yesterday.

There are smaller skirmishes, which British technology may win. London-based Psion, for example, has been successful in selling hand-held portable computers and during the past couple of years has developed an innovative proprietary operating system for a computer that fits in the palm of your hand. This computer, known as the Psion Series 3, allows users to start up programs just by pointing at pictures and then control them with "pull-down menus".

**'What is more significant is the operating system that is required'**

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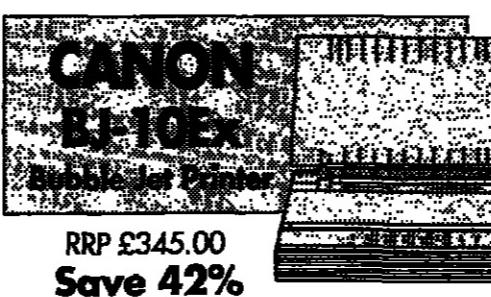
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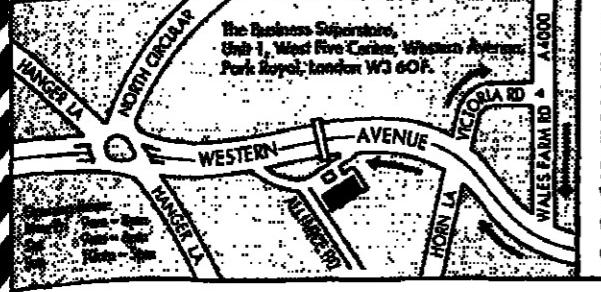
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## Software will be the key to workstations

The battle for business may already be won on operating systems

**T**raditional personal computer manufacturers and companies making powerful workstations are both claiming that their products will be the controlling feature of the next generation of desktop computing.

Analysts say that for current business use there is no contest, pointing to the multitude of IBM and compatible personal computers available that are based around the Intel chip and which run the MS DOS and Windows operating systems.

At the moment the market for workstations that offer high-resolution graphics and hefty processing power is still largely confined to the technical and scientific areas for which they were originally designed.

The research company IDC says that last year about 1.5 million IBM-compatible personal computers were sold, compared with 83,000 workstations. Even this latter figure is too high, argues the IDC analyst Simon Pearce, as 60,000 of these were Acorn systems sold for educational purposes.

There is a further worrying factor for workstation manufacturers. For the first time, the average amount spent on personal computers dropped last year — from £1,750 to £1,450.

Although the falling costs of hardware and the recession may account for some of the drop, Mr Pearce believes that the demand for more powerful and more expensive machines has fallen because users have reached the level of technology required to run their business.

Only a year ago, the workstation suppliers were predicting that the battle for the hearts, minds and wallets of customers would start in 1992. Today, suppliers of both workstations and personal computers believe that fight has been postponed.

"What is becoming more significant is the operating system that any application requires," says John Coon, the product marketing manager of Sun Microsystems. "If you have an MS DOS application running eight hours a day,



Competition: John Coon

then you should undoubtedly buy a personal computer. The real competition will come when new operating systems for personal computers try to take on some of the more sophisticated characteristics that workstations with Unix already offer."

One supplier that foresaw a growth of the workstation market was Tandon. The company realised that its own products could not meet the demand, so it allied itself with Solbourne, a rival workstation supplier to Sun Microsystems, in an attempt to offer products that straddled both camps.

That alliance, under which Tandon would sell Solbourne workstations with some minor modifications, has ended after only six months.

Both sides in the argument agree that the issue of hardware is no longer an important selling point and that what matters is which operating system the machines will use.

However, debates about the future of operating systems do not impress the desktop user, apart from the technically minded. What may decide the issue of workstation versus personal computer is which system can offer a business most compatibility with the use of existing software. At the moment, that puts the personal computer in a commanding position.

**SEAN HALLAHAN**

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# Make awards simpler

Martyn Gowar  
and Nigel  
Kempton want  
changes to  
benefit victims

**V**ictoria Lovell was paralysed from the neck down at the age of three after a blunder during a routine operation to correct a squint. Last week the High Court agreed that Victoria, now 11, who cannot speak or raise her head although she can see and smile, should be awarded a £750,000 lump sum. However, she will not receive this lump sum. Instead, the court agreed that the award should form the basis of a structured settlement involving regular payments over time, likely to be worth several million pounds altogether.

Structured settlements have attracted much media attention recently. In November, a structured settlement was agreed for Rebecca Field, aged six, who was paralysed through brain damage at birth. The settlement will be worth £100 million if she lives until she is 70.

Last July, a structured settlement worth £14.8 million was agreed for a road crash victim, Raymond Everett, aged 29. Increasingly media headlines report "multi-million-pound awards".

Unfortunately, the emphasis on the potentially large sums which may be paid out has diverted attention from the way these settlements can meet a permanently disabled person's genuine need. The actual cost of the settlements is much less. For instance, the cost in Rebecca's case is put at £1.6 million.

Structured settlements have been available in the United States and Canada for many years. A personal injury claim is settled with a lump sum used by the defendant insurer to buy an annuity. The defendant insurer must then pass on the payments to the plaintiff. This meets the plaintiff's real need, giving him a secure "income" for the rest of his life from which to cover his loss in earning capacity and the expensive cost of care.

Structured settlements are effective because the annuity payments are treated as instalments of the personal injury damages, and such damages are untaxed. The alternative is a conventional lump sum award, which has to be invested. Unlike the annuity payments under a structured settlement, the income from these investments will be taxed. Additionally, there is some insecurity, as investments can go down as well as up. This can bring added pressure and distress to the injured plaintiff, his family and friends.

To the insurance companies, which can ill afford spiralling personal injury awards, structured settlements offer a saving over lump sum damages because the defendant reduces the capital outlay. For an award of, say, £13 million, this would save the insurer about £100,000 in

purchased the defendant insurer becomes an unnecessary and expensive middle man. Cost and complication are increased by the Revenue's view that the income element of the annuity payments made by the life insurer to the defendant insurer are subject to tax deduction at source.

The defendant's insurer must then pay the plaintiff without deduction, as the plaintiff's damages are tax-free, and reclaim from the Revenue the tax withheld.

**F**unding the deficit created by the tax deduction at source adversely affects the defendant insurer's cash flow and incurs the costs of such funding and the costs of tracing payments and making reclaims. The defendant insurer also continues to carry the liability on his accounts when this is unrelated to his risk exposure.

With an ideal payment flow, however, the defendant insurer drops out of the picture after paying the initial premium and the life office pays the annuity as it would to any other annuitant, except that having taken over the defendant insurer's liability, it makes the payments gross, as instalments of the plaintiff's damages. The Revenue has no need to become involved.

So why not remove the defendant insurer and allow the annuity provider to make gross payments directly to the plaintiff? This cannot be done because the Revenue claims it would be a "novation". In other words, an investment by the plaintiff and the annuity proceeds would be taxable. No plaintiff solicitor would agree to enter a structured settlement if novation was contemplated as this would negate the benefit to the client.

Although it is open to the Revenue to adopt a more realistic approach, we argue that the principles involved, the legislation and case law were never intended to cope with something as progressive as structured settlements.

Such a system would secure the plaintiff's future and obviate the need for him to rely on the social security network when his conventional award dwindles to nothing, as typically happens after 14 years.

The system would also keep down insurance industry costs and therefore premiums.

In recent years the insurance industry has increasingly argued the merits of structured settlements but with little more than an open ear from Revenue and government. The government is unlikely to find a more cost-effective answer to the requirements of all concerned. It is now time for them to respond.

• The authors are solicitors with Lawrence Graham, the City firm

complexity and importance of the case."

He cites the whooping cough vaccine cases, in which the courts approved an uplift of 125 per cent on top of the expense rates of solicitors involved. Do solicitors charge too much? "Like everything else, you tend to get what you pay for, although that does not stop people seriously overcharging," he says.

However, the public always has the remedy that if the fee seems too high, in that they can have the fee tax or for a remuneration certificate."

**I**n the market

THE Bar is moving more and more into the market place. Two new specialist Bar directories are out — those of the Revenue Bar Association and the new Commercial Bar Association (Combar). The latter seems to emphasise further the growing split in the profession, among law firms as well as chambers, between the wealthy commercial bar and their poorer cousins practising general common law and criminal law. Combar boasts a membership of 598 barristers drawn from 34 sets, 22 of which have joined in their entirety. If that is the measure of the number of barristers practising international and commercial law, it puts the commercial bar at 10 per cent of the 6,000-strong Bar in England and Wales.

**I**nnovating

LAW firms continue to metamorphose into businesses. John Jackson, a businessman,



Victims: Rebecca Field, top, could receive £100 million. Victoria Lovell, above, may eventually get several millions

# Why not a solicitor for the top job?

AFTER winning the 1966 general election, the prime minister, Harold Wilson, told his Attorney-General, Sir Elwyn Jones, that "he had a surprise for me: he proposed to appoint a solicitor to be the Solicitor-General".

The prime minister was told that he had to comply with the constitutional convention that the Solicitor-General must be a barrister.

The solicitor concerned, Eric Fletcher, had to be satisfied with appointment as minister without portfolio.

In 1966, the practical impediment to appointment of a solicitor as Solicitor-General was that only barristers had a right of audience in the higher courts.

Much has changed. As a result of the Courts and Legal Services Act 1990, solicitors will soon obtain enhanced rights of audience.

In any event, because of the increased pressure of their other work, the Attorney-General and the Solicitor-General now rarely appear in court to represent the Crown.

Sir Patrick Mayhew, QC, the Attorney-General, recently persuaded the Divisional Court to quash the decision of a magistrate that police officers could not be prosecuted for alleged offences arising out of the Guildford Four cases.

He has also appeared on behalf of the United Kingdom in European cases in Strasbourg.

Sir Nicholas Lyell, the Solicitor-General, represented the Crown in the Spanish fishing vessels ("Factortame") dispute in the House of Lords and in the European Court of Justice.

These, however, are rare exceptions. Since 1966, it has become impossible regularly to argue cases, give legal advice to the Crown, as guardian of the public interest in respect of prosecutions, and be a Member of Parliament with political and other responsibilities to constituents, and to the whips.

The advisory work of the law officers has grown in complexity, with the development of judicial review and the increasing importance of European Community law.

Moreover, the number of eligible barrister MPs from whom any political party can choose the law officers of the Crown has greatly diminished during the past 30 years.

This is one aspect of a central political truth of our time — that an increasing proportion of our MPs have never had a real job, immersing themselves in politics since they left university.

Of those lawyers who are active in politics, most would regard serving as a law officer as second best to the offer of a post in the cabinet.

Neither Michael Howard, the employment secretary, nor Tony Blair, the shadow employment secretary, who are both barristers, would be pleased to be offered the appointment of Attorney-General on Friday.

The constitutional convention that a solicitor cannot be appointed as a law officer of the Crown should be abandoned. Ladbrokes should cut the betting odds on Harriet Harman for Attorney-General and

Paul Boateng for Solicitor-General. Indeed, the new government, whether it is Conservative, Labour or coalition, ought to consider the future of the law officers.

In many Commonwealth nations, the law officers are not politicians. Distinguished members of the practising Bar are appointed, without having a seat in Parliament.

They can thus concentrate on giving legal advice and representing the Crown in court. The Solicitor-General for Scotland at the moment has such a status.

The Labour party and the Liberal Democrats are rightly committed to the creation of a ministry of justice. Such a ministry would rationalise the provision of legal advice, and the responsibility for legal affairs, within government.

Previous Labour governments disappointed those who wished to see radical reform of the legal system. Lord Chancellor Jowitt wrote to reprimand Lord Justice Denning for delivering the Hartman Lectures on law reform in 1949.

Richard Crossman's diaries describe Gerald Gardiner, the Lord Chancellor from 1964 to 1970, as "utterly remote from the reality of politics, and ineffective".

Tony Benn, Labour MP for Chesterfield, Derbyshire, since 1984 and standing for re-election, records in his diaries that in 1975 he put a concern to Lord Elwyn-Jones, his colleague in the cabinet, with the words: "I'm talking to you now as a great liberal Labour lawyer." Mr Benn received the discouraging answer: "Well, I'm Lord Chancellor now."

As Labour Attorney-General from 1974 to 1979, Sam Silkin had the remarkable distinction of uniting Lord Denning and socialists in criticism of his performance, which included the extraordinary decision to seek an injunction to stop the publication of the Crossman diaries.

A new Labour government would be unlikely to appoint such legal conservatives, though it would do well to find anybody quite as radical as Lord Mackay, the Lord Chancellor since 1987.

The main differences between the parties are that the Conservatives would not create a ministry of justice and a judicial appointments commission, or implement the European Convention on Human Rights, and Labour would spend more money on legal aid and law centres.

However, such is the broad consensus in favour of reform that anybody who suggests to the legal affairs spokesmen of any of the main parties that fundamental change is unnecessary would receive, at greater length, and more politely, the substance of the response given to a foolish Parliamentary question by Sir Gordon Hewart, as Attorney-General in the 1920s:

"The answer is in the plural".

• The author is a practising barrister and a fellow of All Souls College, Oxford

# Junk all that jargon

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here is now a long overdue campaign to make legislation more comprehensible. The Law Society, reporting last week to a commission set up by the Hansard Society, pointed out that the law of England and Wales is contained in more than 3,000 Acts of Parliament and many more thousands of statutory instruments.

Lawyers often have difficulty in understanding Acts of Parliament, and considerable time and money are spent by businesses and individuals trying to understand laws that should be clear and readily accessible.

Although it is open to the law society to adopt a more realistic approach, we argue that the principles involved, the legislation and case law were never intended to cope with something as progressive as structured settlements.

The system would also keep down insurance industry costs and therefore premiums.

In recent years the insurance industry has increasingly argued the merits of structured settlements but with little more than an open ear from Revenue and government. The government is unlikely to find a more cost-effective answer to the requirements of all concerned. It is now time for them to respond.

• The authors are solicitors with Lawrence Graham, the City firm

this. Some, in an attempt to ingratiate themselves with the client, affect criminal argot. Frequently the slang used is local to professional villains in a particular part of south London and means nothing to a thug from Birmingham.

Solicitors are not better. They have probably been writing to the criminal client in technical terms beyond the understanding of anybody other than a lawyer.

Most barristers and solicitors are guilty of using pompous and convoluted language. When challenged, many deny that people cannot understand. Others will claim it is part of the mystique of the law. When I asked a senior solicitor how he expected his client to understand a complicated letter, he loftily replied that the client was not expected to understand it.

There is no need for all this. Some clients may be impressed by lawyers' verbiage but most are prepared to send for understanding what is going on. Is it not the legal profession gave clients what they want: a generous dose of clarity?

PATRICK STEVENS

• The author is a practising solicitor in Croydon

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### Assessing Your Strengths...

Our job as recruitment consultants is to present candidates to employers in a clear and favourable light, making sure that their strong points are in full view. To achieve this, we often review with our candidates their career situation, assessing their various strengths. A client following, for example, is always difficult to assess, and candidates tend to prefer an under- rather than over-estimate. Such scruples, however, can be overdone. Candidates' followings may well be more substantial than they think.

Last month we interviewed an assistant solicitor with a large commercial firm in the North of England who had been made redundant. She had built up close contacts with one of the firm's largest clients, but felt unsure whether they would continue to instruct her after she left. It is never easy to persuade an established client to leave an established firm. However, having decided to raise the matter with the clients she found they were relying on her more than she realised. They were put out to learn she was leaving, and told her they wanted their work to go with her - provided, of course, that she moved to a firm of good standing.

Many candidates, being naturally modest about their following, can benefit from some objective encouragement. They come to see that a client's confidence in their firm is also matched by the client's growing loyalty to themselves. Michael Chambers

### INDUSTRY & BANKING

#### Intellectual Property: South East

Consumer co seeks sol/sr. Co. for international brand-protection work, to £60,000+ car.

#### High-Tech: South East

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#### Company/Commercial: Holborn

Superb opportunity for 6-18 months qual solr to handle multi-jurisdictional commercial law for international corporate clientele.

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#### Manufacturing: North of England

Commercial lawyer to handle broad mix of work inc. some litigation, c.£26,000.

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Lawyer, 2-4 yrs' commercial exp, to join expanding legal dept of well-known company.

#### Commercial Lawyer: North of England

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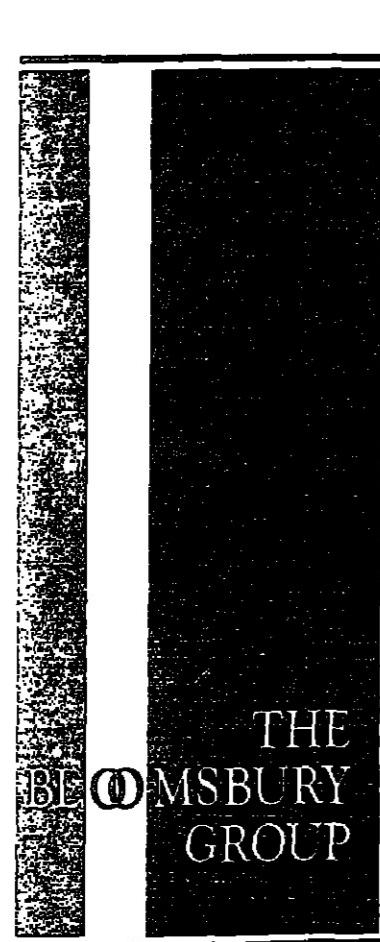
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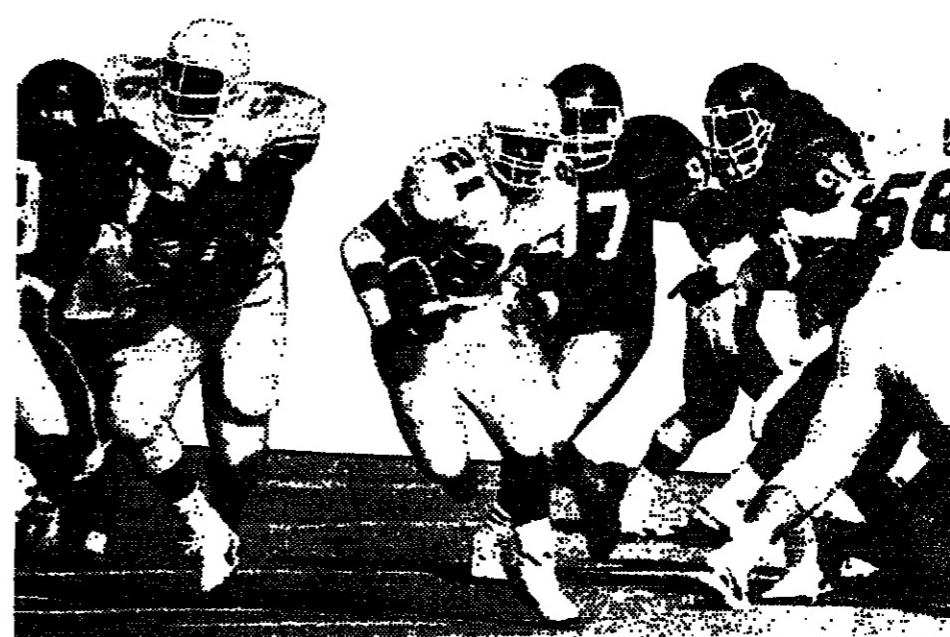
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## Assessing value of shares

**Smith New Court Securities Ltd v Scrimgeour Vickers (Asset Management) Ltd and Another**  
Before Mr Justice Chadwick [Judgment March 25]

In assessing damages for a purchase of shares induced by a fraudulent misrepresentation, the measure to be adopted was the difference between the purchase price and their actual value.

In assessing that value the market price was of no assistance when it had been distorted by a fraud whether by the defendant himself or by a third party unconnected with the transaction.

An alternative method, in which it was permissible to take into account the price at which the market subsequently settled after the true state of affairs had been disclosed, provided a better method for ascertaining the true value of the shares as at the date of purchase.

Mr Justice Chadwick so held in a subsequent judgment in the Chancery Division awarding Smith New Court Securities Ltd (SNC) £10,764.005 on its claim against Citibank NA, the second defendant, and Christopher Nigel Roberts, the third party, 'but dismissing the claim against the first defendant, Scrimgeour Vickers (Asset Management) Ltd'.

Mr Anthony Gribble, QC, Mr Ian Glick, QC and Mr John McCaughran for Smith; Mr Jonathan Sumption, QC and Mr Anthony Mann for the defendants; Mr Charles Pugh

and Mr Mark Shuler for Mr Roberts.

**MR JUSTICE CHADWICK** said that on July 21, 1989 SNC agreed to buy from SVAM 28,141.424 ordinary shares of 10p each in the company then known as Ferranti International Signal plc for a price of 82 1/4 per share, that is, a total consideration of some £23 million.

In that transaction SVAM was acting as broker on the instruction of Citibank. Mr Roberts was employed by Citibank in London as the head of its private banking department.

His Lordship found that the bargain was struck after Mr Roberts had fraudulently misrepresented to SNC that there were two other buyers interested in the shares at a similar price, one Cifcorp and the other Aerialia, the Italian state-owned defence contractor.

In the succeeding months the share price of Ferranti fell to as low as 30p per share. By April 30, 1990 SNC had sold all the shares at a cumulative loss of £11,353,220.

SNC brought an action claiming that the oral agreement of July 21, 1989 was rescinded for misrepresentation and repayment of the purchase price, alternatively damages for misrepresentation.

His Lordship saw no reason in principle why cases in which the true value of the shares should be ascertained independently of the market should be confined to circumstances in which the market had been distorted by the defendant's own wrong.

On the basis that without Mr Roberts' fraudulent misrepresentation SNC would not have bought the Ferranti shares, the measure of damages was the

difference between what SNC actually paid and what the shares were worth on July 21.

How did one assess what the shares were then worth? SNC contended that the market price on July 21 afforded no satisfactory evidence of the true value on that day. They said that the market was deceived by the preliminary announcement by Ferranti on July 14 of its result for the year ended July 31.

The injustice restricting the plaintiffs to loss measured by reference to the market value might be particularly striking in circumstances where the false market had been created by the defendant's own wrong but the plaintiff's loss was no less and the justification for a measure which was not the true measure greater where the false market had been created by a third party.

In his Lordship's judgment it was permissible to look at subsequent events in order to ascertain the true value of Ferranti shares as at July 21, 1989. The price at which the market settled at the end of November, after the revised accounts had been published, provided a reasonably reliable guide as to the true value of shares at the time of acquisition.

He held that the true value on July 21 was 44p per share, the total value of 28,141.424 shares was £12,392,224. Therefore the loss suffered by SNC on that day was £10,764.005, being the difference between the price paid and the value of the shares acquired.

In the circumstances that the actual proceeds realised on sales was less than what his Lordship had found the true value to be the loss suffered by SNC was not reduced by the need to give credit for the actual proceeds realised on the sales by SNC between November 20, 1989 and April 30, 1990.

Solicitors: Ashurst Morris Crisp; Wilde Sapte; Davis Han-

son, West Kensington.

## Changing basis of negotiations

**Cheddar Valley Engineering Ltd v Chaddiewood Homes Ltd**

**Before Mr Jules Sher, QC** [Judgment February 28]

Where negotiations started on a without prejudice basis, it was incumbent on the party who sought to change the basis of such negotiations to spell out the change with clarity.

Mr Jules Sher, QC, sitting as a deputy judge of the Chancery Division, so held giving judgment in open court after a hearing in chambers dismissing the appeal of Chaddiewood Homes Ltd from the decision of Deputy Master Powell of January 10, 1992 in favour of Cheddar Valley Engineering Ltd ordering that a memorandum and letter listed in the summons were privileged and admitted in evidence.

Miss Ann McAllister for Chaddiewood; Mr Mark Cunningham for Cheddar.

**HIS LORDSHIP** said that Cheddar was the vendor and Chaddiewood the purchaser under an agreement for the sale of certain property.

The agreement broke down and there was litigation between the parties. On August 1, 1990 Mr Croall, of Chaddiewood's solicitors, telephoned Mr Brydon, of Cheddar's solicitors, and made a without prejudice offer to compromise the litigation.

The offer was not accepted and further negotiations took place. On August 9, Mr Croall telephoned Cheddar's solicitors again hoping to talk to Mr

Brydon but on being told he was on holiday spoke to Mr Mark Ogden, a legal executive of Cheddar's solicitors.

The relevant part of Mr Croall's attendance note of that telephone conversation read: "Put open offer to purchase whole land for £180,000 plus we pay their costs".

The crucial word was "open". The issue was whether that conversation was open or without prejudice.

Mr Croall applied to the master for a direction that the memorandum and a letter of the same date were not admissible in evidence at the substantive hearing on the assessment of damages and the master granted the direction. Chaddiewood appealed.

Mr Ogden's evidence was that it was his understanding and belief that those negotiations were on a without prejudice basis and that in particular the telephone conversation was without prejudice. Mr Ogden's veracity was not challenged by Mr Croall although he said he failed to see how a misunderstanding could have arisen in the mind of Mr Ogden.

Mr Croall's evidence was that the offer made in the telephone call was expressed by him to be an open offer which was subsequently confirmed in a letter faxed to Cheddar's solicitors later that day. That letter was headed "subject to contract" but was not headed "without prejudice".

There was no mention in the letter that the word "open" had been used in the telephone call. Mr Ogden made the point that he was under the impression that the negotiations

were without prejudice, there was nothing in the letter to disabuse him of that understanding.

His Lordship said that between August 1 and 24 there were negotiations for the settlement of the litigation. That alone would prima facie raise the presumption that the communications in that period were without prejudice; see *Chocoladefabriken Lindt & Sprungli AG v The Nestle Co Ltd* [1978] RPC 287].

The offer at the beginning of the negotiations on August 1 was plainly without prejudice as accepted by both sides. In the circumstances one would expect to find something very specific and clear before concluding that they had ceased to be so.

Mr Croall said that he used the word "open" and Mr Ogden could not affirm or deny it. Therefore his Lordship accepted that the word "open" was used but that it was not adverted to by Mr Ogden. He did not pick up the word "open".

If negotiations started off with out prejudice and one side wished

to make an open offer the change had to be bilateral; it had to be communicated to the other side and of course could not refer to earlier without prejudice discussions.

But in his Lordship's judgment such a communication made in circumstances when it would be brought home to a reasonable man would be enough. For instance, it would not be open to Mr Ogden to show that he did not understand "open" because of ignorance of the difference between the two bases or for the recipient of a letter plaintiff marked "open" to say that he did not read it properly.

But it was incumbent on the party who changed the basis of negotiations to start off with out prejudice basis to spell out the change with clarity. It might not be enough just to say the word "open".

Solicitors: Cleary & Croll, Lyham St Annes, Layton, Bristol.

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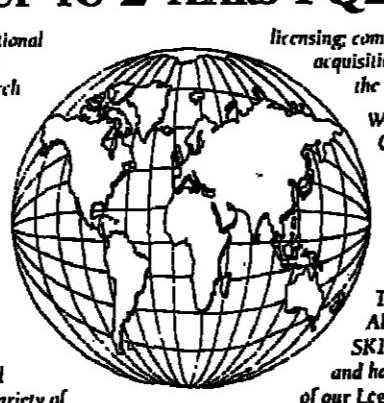
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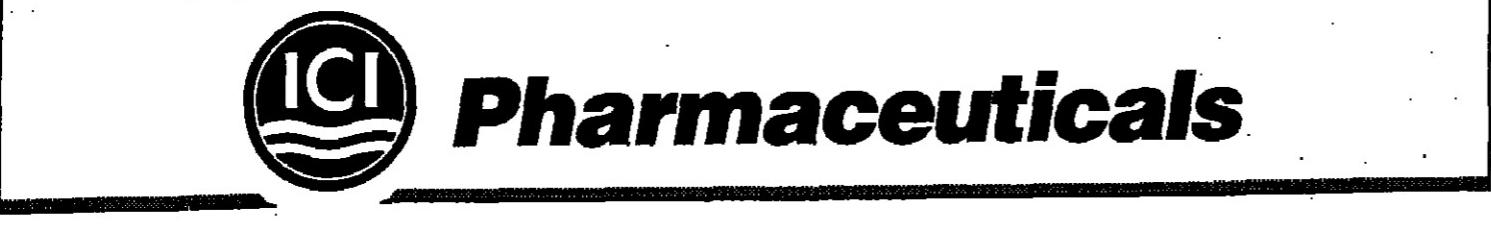
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O'Reilly: demands are huge

# Britain's short-track progress meets ice wall

FROM DAVID MILLER  
DENVER, COLORADO

BRITAIN, the silver medal winners in the men's 5,000 metres relay at the world championships, rank among the best four or five nations at the innovative Olympic sport of short-track speed skating. According to Dave Jordan, the team manager, who is retiring after 12 years, that position can only be maintained for at the most another two years without substantial increase in subsidies for the international programme from the Sports Council.

The problem is not equipment, but ice. Time at commercial rinks costs money. South Korea, which had the first three in the overall men's individual event here and also took the women's title, get six

hours a day on ice at home. The British squad is lucky to get that in a fortnight, because of the shortage of rinks and, therefore, the demand on ice time.

For Britain, the situation will become accentuated because of the sport's development by, in particular, China, Canada, Japan, the Netherlands and Korea. The level of intensity was, regrettably, demonstrated when a Korean, having shunted a colleague out of the 1,000 metres final with a rash overtaking manoeuvre on the inside, when his country was about to take all three medals, was unmercifully kneed in the groin by one of his coaches in full view on return to the dressing room. "Not what the sport should be," Wiff O'Reilly reflected wryly.

World records were broken here more than 30 times, sometimes by two or three competitors in a heat. This was partially because of Denver's altitude, approaching 5,500ft, and the deionised water for creating unusually hard ice, but also the rapid progress being made in a new sport.

"What was sufficient to win a semi-final six years ago is today not good enough to survive the heats," Arthur Marshall, Britain's coach, who after eight years in the job is also retiring, said yesterday. "All our major opposition have full-time coaches and physiotherapists, as essential as in cycling. Britain will fall away unless we raise the levels of administration."

The dilemma for the British Skating Association is illustrated by the decision, when hosting the 1994 world championships, to stage the event at ... Guildford. Not exactly your focal point of British sport. Birmingham, the home town of O'Reilly — world champion in 1991 and equal fourth this weekend — would have attracted the crowds, but there are two snags: it has no rink of regulation 60 metres by 30 metres size, and the stadium has to

be commercially compensated for being available for two weeks, including preparation time.

The only regulation rinks in England are at Basingstoke, Bracknell and Hull. Guildford, where the rink has yet to be completed, received the nod

because it offered the most attractive financial terms. "We're still a Mickey Mouse sport, and desperately need better promotion," Marshall said.

I am convinced that short-track could have a spectacular future if an imaginative sponsor would see the possibilities. Almost anyone who experiences the sport first hand becomes hooked. In Australia, recently, I met people who were fascinated by the televised Olympic event.

In many ways this is the perfect spectator sport: fast, unpredictable, intensely competitive, physically challenging and risky, determined by absolute measurement and not by judging, and with 20 or so races in, say, a preliminary evening session.

The hazards, with speeds of over 25mph in even the longer races, mean that the best performers are often beaten. Being on the edge of one's seat is a sports-writing cliché, yet I have seldom so repeatedly had the experience as this last weekend.

As O'Reilly says, the demands on a world champion are hugely varied, from sprint to endurance, similar to the Tour de France, and, on a two-session day, present more serious difficulty for energy replacement. Aged 27, O'Reilly will continue at least until the 1994 Winter Olympics. "The sport is so new," he says. "And there is little research in physiology or biomechanics applied to short-track. I'm just one of the forerunners."

Woosnam and Lyle fade before Masters

## Faldo strikes right practice chord in New Orleans

FROM MITCHELL PLATTS, GOLF CORRESPONDENT, IN AUGUSTA, GEORGIA

NICK Faldo arrived here for the 56th Masters, which starts on Thursday, oozing with confidence after finishing joint-sixth behind Chip Beck in the New Orleans Classic.

"I have not felt as good about my game in 20 months," he said. "It is the first time since the 1990 US PGA Championship that I will go into a major with an upbeat feeling."

Faldo completed the tournament on the demanding English Turn course with a third successive 69 for a total of 281. Beck won the \$180,000 first prize with a 70 for a score of 276, 12 under par. Mike Standley (69), another American, and Greg Norman (69), of Australia, shared second place.

Faldo, who was four over par after three holes of the first round, was the only player to score below 70 in each of the last three rounds. "I set myself a stiff task and responded to it," he said.

## Trevino sets the pace for seniors

FROM PATRICIA DAVIES IN PHOENIX, ARIZONA

LEE Trevino is in prime form. Jetlagged, on a course he felt was not suited to his game, he still won the Tradition at Desert Mountain on Sunday, beating Jack Nicklaus by one shot.

Trevino leads the senior money list with \$297,229, having won twice this season, and of his last 16 rounds on tour, only two have not been in the 60s. Those two were 70 and included the last round at the Tradition, where he had a total of 274, 14 under par, just enough to relegate Nicklaus to second place.

Nicklaus said: "It's disappointing, but I'm not sure that this week I was any better than second."

Losing was disappointing enough but in the last two years Nicklaus has used victory in the Tradition as a

confidence booster for the Masters and this year he got to Augusta without that extra lift winning brings.

Remarkable though he is, he has probably not played enough competitive golf to trouble seriously the likes of Couples, Faldo and Olazabal. Trevino, who has never liked Augusta, has not qualified this year.

**LEADING FINAL SCORES (US unless otherwise stated):** 278: C Beck, 67, 65, 74, 70, 277: G Norman, 69, 68, 70, 66, 71; 276: J Nicklaus (69), 67, 69, 69, 69, 71; 275: C Rodriguez (68), 68, 71, 70, 70, 70; 274: Aaron (69), 68, 69, 69, 70, 70; 273: D Stockton (69), 67, 67, 71, 70, 70; 272: D Weare (69), 72, 71, 67, 67, 70; 271: J Sander (69), 68, 69, 69, 70, 70; 270: J Sneed (68), 71, 70, 73, 281: M Alonso (68), 71, 73, 69, 68; D Bies (67), 73, 72, 69; G Archer (72), 68, 68, 68, 68, 68; J Powell (68), 71, 70, 69, 68; J Sneed (68), 71, 70, 69, 68, 68; J Loretta (72), 70, 70, 70, D'Ryan (71), 72, 69, 71, 70, 70; G Player (SA), 70, 71, 70, 72, 71; 270: J Sneed (68), 71, 70, 69, 68, 68; H Hass (67), 72, 71, 69, 68, 68; J Carter (68), 69, 68, 69, 68, 68; J Haskins (68), 71, 70, 69, 68, 68; J Wadsworth (68), 71, 70, 69, 68, 68; J M Olazabal (69), 74, 67, 68, 70, 71, 76.

## O'Sullivan sums it up in a nutshell

BY HENRY KELLY

### SPORT ON TELEVISION

#### THE WEEK IN REVIEW

As usual, the BBC's coverage — with the exception of the ludicrous idea of having music under the introduction of the National horses — was first-class. But let us praise one famous man above them all: Peter O'Sullivan.

He is a different class isn't he, O'Sullivan? Word-perfect, calm when needs be, and the modulated tones rising to a tremor of excitement just when needed. He does no more and no less than he should. He walks and talks like a man assuring us that everything is going to be all right.

If he never said another word, did he not perfectly sum up the feelings of so many people in racing on Saturday? During the final stages of the Aintree Marcelli Hurdle, O'Sullivan found himself calling home Morley Street, winning the race for the third time in a row, a fabulous achievement. Mor-

ley Street is owned by Michael Jackson, a millionaire paper-selling racing enthusiast.

Until Saturday Morley Street was always ridden by Jimmy Frost, the popular West Country rider, who won something in the region of £400,000 on him for Jackson. Morley Street was beaten last month when ridden by Frost. Jackson sacked the rider.

At Aintree on Saturday the new rider, Richard Dunwoody, won the race, by a whisker. As they flashed past the post, O'Sullivan said: "And Morley Street wins the race, but he wins it like a shadow of his former self. No wonder Jimmy Frost didn't win the Champion Hurdle on him." Just what needed to be said: nothing more, nothing less. End message.

There was another famous man on screen during the weekend: Stephen Hendry, winning the Benson and Hedges Irish snooker tournament from the local hero, Ken Doherty. Between them, Hendry and Doherty played magnificent snooker, but the shots of the tournament were the ones taken by the RTE cameramen for BSkyB. I almost cried myself when I saw those cuddly Irish mothers, dressed as if for Sunday Mass, standing and cheering with tears in their eyes as they looked down on Hendry and Doherty — both in their twenties, but both looking so young you had to believe they had a nose from their own mums to be allowed out so late at night.

When Hendry congratulated Doherty and called him "a great ambassador for Irish snooker", was it too much to hope that the once-great ambassador for Irish

snooker, Alex Higgins, was listening?

We had a feast of football on Sunday afternoon and I'll admit I didn't quite watch every kick of the two Cup semi-finals. What I did see was more exciting than skilful, probably the trade mark of Cup games. Liverpool's last-gasp equaliser was wonderful; Bruce Grobbelaar was hilarious and wonderful, and the sheer joy on the face of the temporary manager of Sunderland was, well, yes, a sheer joy to behold.

Finally this week an appeal from the heart. I watched yet another grand prix and another Nigel Mansell victory. The guy is clearly going to win the world championship and, watching it all, I'm beginning to like it, pay attention to it and learn something about it.

I've even been asked, Lord help us, to take part in a Mickey Mouse version of a race for charitable purposes later on this year. Could any reader with a sense of decency send me something to arrest what is clearly a serious deterioration in what's left of my brain?



O'Sullivan: concise

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## Olympic gold next on the list

BY DAVID POWELL  
ATHLETICS CORRESPONDENT

WHEN somebody suggested recently that Liz McColgan might benefit from the help of a sports psychologist, a fellow athlete responded: "Maybe Liz would be good at being a sports psychologist." Need a psychologist, Liz? "To be the most successful athlete, you have to be able to motivate yourself," McColgan said, dismissing the idea.

There are few athletes with McColgan's capacity for positive thinking. Get out there and get on with it is the McColgan way. She rules out cross-training, too. No swimming, no cycling, nothing like that. And physiology testing? "I have never been tested," she says. "I just run."

All of which is why, now, her 41st place at the world cross-country championships in Boston last month has, according to Kim McDonagh, her manager, been for

### THE TIMES/MINET SUPREME AWARD



gotten. The housewife in her knows that you cannot always get what you want at the shops and she was way down the queue in Boston.

So, quickly on to the next item on the shopping list: the Olympic Games. And, after that, the world half-marathon championships on Tyneside. Two global titles out of three from 1992, or even just Olympic gold, would still make the effort worthwhile.

When you are shopping for such things, it helps to have extra money in your purse and McColgan is £5,000 better off for her training grant under The Times/Minet Supreme Award scheme.

None of her challengers at 10,000 metres are likely to be foiled by her Boston performance. McColgan was an emphatic winner of the 25-mile world title in Tokyo last summer but felt the onset of a cold two days before Boston. During the race, she was consumed by a virus.

Nothing is allowed to sidetrack her. An offer to compete in the Aberdeen city centre road races on May 18, to May 19, a rare chance for an international race in her native Scotland, was declined.

Upon her return, McColgan, aged 27, will re-



Power of positive thinking: McColgan is focused on success in Barcelona

Now she is back in Gainesville, Florida, her favourite training retreat, and will not return to Britain until the end of May. She is there with Peter McColgan, her husband, coach and an international steeplechaser.

Two global titles out of three from 1992, or even just Olympic gold, would still make the effort worthwhile.

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## BASKETBALL

### Kingston players criticised in defeat

BY NICHOLAS HARLING

KINGSTON'S third successive Carlsberg League title, and fourth trophy this season, will almost certainly not be accompanied by any fair play awards. Of that, Joe White, the team coach of London Towers, is certain.

Speaking without a loser's bitterness — his side had just gained an unexpected 103-97 victory over the champions in the final league fixture on Sunday, and also became the first side to beat them twice this season — White accused Kingston of not being able to handle defeat.

He joined Andy Gill, the coach of Thames Valley Tigers, who complained of Kingston's aggression after his side had lost in the national cup final last month. White said: "I know Kingston are the No. 1 team at getting protection from referees but the way they get protection is ridiculous."

White claimed that it was after London had jumped into an interval lead of 65-40 that Kingston started to get "nasty". He said: "They were also coming past our bench and saying things like 'What are you so happy about? we're the league champions.'

Beneath from the good work of Andrew Bailey, Peter Scantlebury, with 25 points, and Mark Griffin, 23, made the largest contributions to a London victory that will almost certainly have to be repeated at Wembley next month if Kingston are not to add the national championships to their monopoly of honours.

None of the Kingston players was exempt from White's criticism. "Alton Byrd, Alan Cunningham, Colin Irish: they were all at it," he said. "They were fouling and holding. What am I going to say when I go out and teach kids? That is the way to play?"

London's quarter-final play-off with Derby, the first leg of which is next Saturday, is the most difficult to predict of the four ties that will see the winners qualify for Wembley. Derby returned to form by beating Worthing 105-102 after overtime.

Leicester stage the first leg of their match against Worthing on Friday while Kingsland visit Birmingham and Hemel Hempstead Royals host Thames Valley on Saturday.

## SWIMMING

### Ender returns to the pool in Edinburgh

KORNELIA Ender is returning to international competition after a 16-year absence and has chosen the British Grand Prix Superfinal at the Royal Commonwealth Pool in Edinburgh, from April 16 to 18, for her appearance.

Ender set 23 world records in four years before ending her career with four gold medals at the Montreal Olympics. She was considered the role model for an East German system that produced exactly half of the 88 women's world champions from 1973 to 1989.

Last year, Ender broke her silence over the system when she told *The Times* she remembered being injected with substances to help her "regenerate and recuperate". She was "shocked" by a muscle weight gain of 18lb in the year before Montreal.

The Edinburgh meeting promises to be one of the highlights of the international year in Britain. "This is exciting for me," Ender said. "I'm looking forward to racing foreign swimmers again."

## SNOW REPORT

### FRANCE

	Depth L (cm) U	Conditions Piste	Runs to resort	Weather (5pm)	Temp °C	Last snowfall
<

wall

The hazards, with speeds over 25 mph in even the longer races, mean that the best jockeys are often beaten home on the edge of one's seat. As a sports-writing colleague, yet I have no place at this last weekend.

As O'Reilly said, the demands on a world champion are huge, similar to the Tour de France, and, on a two-weekend day, present serious difficulty for energy replacement. And O'Reilly will continue at ease until the next race at this last weekend.

**BASKETBALL****Kingston players criticised in defeat**

By NICHOLAS HARVEY

Kingston's players were criticised by the press after their defeat to London City in the British Basketball League on Saturday.

The team lost 74-66, with

THE TIMES TUESDAY APRIL 7 1992

RACING 37

**Soft conditions only concern for Arazi's classic springboard**

By MICHAEL SERLY

**WITH** the Grand National over, the new Flat racing season is suddenly flaring into dramatic life.

In France today, Arazi, a short-priced favourite for the Kentucky Derby after that brilliant victory in the Breeders' Cup Juvenile last autumn, faces only eight opponents in the Prix Omnia II at Saint-Cloud.

So superior is the 1991 champion two-year-old considered to be his rivals, and even with ground softer than he has encountered before, no Pari-mutuel prices are likely to be returned.

Three of the runners are stable companions of the "wonder horse", Akito (Eric Saint-Martin) and Carson Bay (Claude Piccione) will be acting as pacemakers for Arazi who will be ridden by Steve Cauthen and who will

**Time to repair Becher's**

tivists, suspected as the likely culprits.

Becher's has been modified after a series of accidents culminating in the deaths of two horses in the 1989 National. No horses nor jockeys were seriously injured in Saturday's race.

Becher's blaze, page 3

AINTREE staff will have plenty of time to repair the fire damage to Becher's Brook before the second meeting, introduced this year for November.

National Hunt racing's

most famous fence was set ablaze by arsonists on Sunday night, with local youths,

rather than animal rights ac-

**Secret Haunt leaves the door open for Torchon**

**WITH** Secret Haunt a late withdrawal yesterday, the way looks clear for Torchon to capture the Hey Group Trophy at Pontefract today.

The Geoffrey Wragg-trained four-year-old developed into a useful performer last term at Haydock the following month.

He was beaten twice by the progressive Surrealist at Doncaster and Newmarket in the autumn, but was clearly over the top on the latter occasion.

Torchon faces only three rivals for this £5,000 added ten-furlong event, but it should be an intriguing contest nevertheless.

John Gosden's Kansh also had a successful three-year-old campaign, his best performance being a three-length beating of Due De Berry in a graduation event at York in October.

Starlight Flyer and Swift Sword also had commendable form last term, but Torchon should prevail.

Cabochon, another Royal Ascot winner, can deny 10

newcomers, he should put his experience to good effect in the Beast Fair Maiden Stakes.

Gosden has made an excellent start to the new season and I hope his Secretaire to open her account in the Spring Three-Year-Old Maiden Stakes.

This Alzaco filly was a dis-

pointing twelfth in the Goffs Challenge Race at the Curragh in October, but previously had shown immense promise when a close-up fourth behind Skimble at Newmarket and should prove too strong for another Newmarket challenger, Yazzal.

Lord Huntingdon's Moesey Rose has run creditably on the all-weather tracks this winter, and should make her fitness tell in the Hardwick Handicap. She won at Folkestone last March when trained by Pat Mitchell.

At Southwell on the National Hunt course, Peter Easterby's Gymcrak Sovereign can extend his winning sequence to five by outperforming Woodurather in the Monet Handicap Hurdle and the John Edwards-trained Bonnie Dundee can complete a double here in the Intermills Paper Novices' Chase.

Unless there is a particularly smart recruit among the

newcomers, he should put his experience to good effect in the Beast Fair Maiden Stakes.

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At the Southdown and

Eridge, Lake Tiberias quickly

followed up her Parham

maiden win last week when

under Guy Cosgrove, she won

the BMW quattro.

Justin Farthing bounced

back after his fall on Rushing

Wald in the Foxhunters' At-

lentree to beat the Aler-

ridden favourite, Spring Fun-

in the Spring Three-Year-Old

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In the Haydock Times

Championship qualifier,

Dolitino, who showed good

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West Indies selectors under fire

# S Africans exude confidence and look like winners

FROM RICHARD STREETON  
IN KINGSTON, JAMAICA

AS SOUTH Africa continue their untroubled practices, guarded by armed police, with not a demonstrator in sight, it is ironic that West Indies could be cast as the villains in the first one-day international here today.

A acute disappointment at the poor World Cup results, plus criticism of the selectors for keeping the same side, is still rife. Nobody will be surprised if West Indies are booted as they take the field.

The volatile Caribbean spectators have featured more than once in cricket history's catalogue of crowd disturbances. To be fair, though, the uproar has seldom been directed at visiting sides. Invariably the target has been poor cricket by their own players or what has been considered unsatisfactory umpiring by local officials.

On this historic occasion, any qualms held by the ordinary Jamaican about the South African presence in their midst seemed to have been allayed by their government's approval for the visit. Since Kepler Wessels's players arrived, they have had a good press in this context. Both the print and broadcasting media have stressed how much things have improved in the Republic.

Meanwhile, South Africa hardly lack motivation to perform at their best in the three

WEST INDIES (from left): R B Richardson (captain), B C Lara, D L Haynes, K I T Arthur, P V Simmons, C L Hooper, W K Bishop, M A Johnson, R Williams, C L Ambrose, R A Harper, B P Patterson, J C Adams.

SOUTH AFRICA (from left): K C Wessels (captain), A P Kuper, P N Kirsten, A C Hobbs, W C Smith, J M Rossouw, R G Stoddart, O Henry, M W Pringle, C J P van Donald, T Botha.

Umpires: S Bucknor and G Johnson.

internationals and solitary Test match. The players exude confidence and must be considered favourites in the one-day series, always remembering the lottery that is represented in any limited overs game. In the World Cup South Africa beat West Indies at Christchurch by 14 runs.

Neither side has announced its team. On a bone-hard Sabina Park pitch, West Indies are expected to remain faithful to the four-fast-bowlers ploy, with Simmons, Arthur and Hooper sharing the other 10 overs. David Richardson, the only wicketkeeper in the South African party, was left limping with a badly bruised and swollen foot after being hit in the nets by Donald yesterday, if he cannot play, Kirsten would kick wicket.

West Indies are also debating whether to appoint a coach. Clive Lloyd or Rohan Kanhai, who has been so successful recently with Jamaica, the Red Stripe Cup winners, are the front runners.

1966 Commonwealth Games. A 13,000 capacity crowd will be present.

Television revenue will bring the West Indies board some much-needed profit, but in cricket terms, even some officials have questioned the timing of the South African visit. West Indies should be taking stock after the recent uneven performances, which have followed the wholesale clear-out involving such giants as Richards, Greenidge, Dupont and Marshall.

Several important issues will be resolved by the West Indian board before they undertake an arduous programme in 1992-3. This includes a full Test tour to Australia, a triangular knockout tournament in South Africa, followed by a Test series at home against Pakistan.

Clyde Walcott, the board president, has admitted that the West Indian domestic programme must be revised to include more one-day matches. At the moment the one-day Geddes Grant Shield provides a maximum of three games a season for each territory. A round-robin format to bring in additional fixtures is being considered.

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Dressing down: Wessels makes do with the bare essentials for a practice net

## SQUASH RACKETS

## Newton pays penalty

By COLIN MCQUILLAN

THE qualifying rounds of the Hi-Tec British Open championships had scarcely begun at Lamb's Club in London yesterday before the tension of the game's pre-eminent event was explosively displayed in a match won 1-9, 2-9, 9-7, 9-0, 9-6 by Paul Lord, of Cheshire, over Brett Newton.

Newton, of Australia, was banned for six months last season and is well known for on-court antics that cause officials to refer to him as "Brett" Newton.

Lord, aged 22 and ranked only 19 in England, had heard about Newton's reputation. "It was worse than I expected," he said after taking match point with the fourth disciplinary conduct point of the encounter.

Newton, ranked No. 28 in the world, began in commanding, if rather obstructive style, against Lord, whose experience has been limited to national league play for Manchester Northern. But Newton attracted a warning from the referee, John Robinson, at 4-4 in the third game for continually throwing down his racket when making let calls. "It will be a stroke every time you do that," Robinson said.

The next one came after a legitimate penalty stroke call at 8-6, giving the game to Lord. There was another warning in the fourth game and three more conduct penalty points in the fifth.

"It was a joke," said Newton, whose supporters were calling for Robinson to give up his badge.

Results, page 39

## Hunter and Rodber drop out of vital league game

By DAVID HANDS, RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

THOUGH there are fewer than three weeks left of the Courage Clubs Championship, had scarcely begun at Lamb's Club in London yesterday before the tension of the game's pre-eminent event was explosively displayed in a match won 1-9, 2-9, 9-7, 9-0, 9-6 by Paul Lord, of Cheshire, over Brett Newton.

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Results, page 39

## YACHTING

## Memorable start for Olympic aspirants

From BARRY PICKTHALL IN HYÈRES, FRANCE

THE leading Olympic aspirants from Britain enjoyed a memorable opening day at the French pre-Olympic regatta here yesterday after counting four first places, a second and a fourth in this world fleet.

Barrie Edgington and Penny Way gained double victories in the men and women's Olympic windsurfing classes. Russell Peters scored a surprising but well-deserved win in the Soling keelboat class, and last night, Paul Brotherton and Andrew Hemmings capped the day with a runaway win in the second 470 race.

Racing in six to 10-knot winds typical conditions expected off Barcelona in July

## Nippon crew battles hard for no reward

**San Diego:** The loss by Nippon to Il Moro di Venezia (Paul Cayard, Italy) in the America's Cup challenger semi-finals off San Diego has all but eliminated the yacht, her skipper, Chris Dickson, concedes (Bob Ross writes).

The ingenuity and persistence of the Japanese crew, with its core of skilled New Zealanders, which allowed Nippon to finish only 1 min 53 sec behind Il Moro, despite breaking the main boom six minutes before the start, were outstanding. But with only one win in six races, the end is in sight.

In the defenders' series,

America beat Kanza, skippered by the syndicate head, Bill Koch, by 34 seconds in a close contest.

Chris Law, who has re-

turned to the class after a four-year break to make a last-minute attempt to represent Britain for a second time,

finished 36th.

## Draw appears likely in absence of desire

THERE can be few teams as dispirited right now as West Ham United and Norwich City, who meet at Upton Park on Saturday.

Only a sequence of improbable results can prevent West Ham from being relegated, while Norwich's last hope of a trophy this season disappeared on Sunday when they lost to Sunderland in the FA Cup semi-finals. A draw is a good bet, neither side appears to have the motivation to win.

Notts County also look as if they are fighting a losing battle against the drop. They have gone 14 League matches without a victory and may do no more than draw against Coventry City, who are equally anxious for points.

## POOLS FORECASTS

Saturday April 11 unless stated

## RUMBLETON CUP FINALS

Not on coupons: Men-

chester United v Notting-

ham Forest (at Wembley,

Sunday)

## THIRD DIVISION

1 A Villa v Liverpool

2 Everton v Birmingham

3 Fulham v Swindon

4 Middlesbrough v Stoke

5 Preston v Leyton O

X Shrewsbury v Bournem

X West Ham v Norwich

NOT on coupons: Arsenal

Celtic v Palace; Queens'

Park Rangers v Tott

-ham

## FOURTH DIVISION

1 Cardiff v Halifax

X Doncaster v Scarborough

2 Gillingham v Blackpool

3 Ipswich v Bristol City

4 Middlesbrough v Carl

5 North plan v Crewe

X Nottingham v Rochdale

6 Oldham v Grimsby

7 Port Vale v Bury

8 Shrewsbury v Barnet

9 York v Chesterfield

X York v Hereford

## SCOTTISH SECOND

1 Ayr v Dundee

2 Clydebank v Forfar

3 Hamilton v Spring

4 Livingston v Dunfermline

5 Morton v Meadowbank

X Raith v Partick

## FIFTH DIVISION

1 Alloa v Stirling

2 Brechin v Cumbernauld

3 Dundee Utd v Rangers

4 Hearts v St Mirren

## SCOTTISH FIRST

2 Ayr v Dundee

3 Clydebank v Forfar

4 Hamilton v Spring

5 Livingston v Dunfermline

6 Morton v Meadowbank

X Raith v Partick

## TREBLE CHANCE (home teams): Notts

County, West Ham, Port Vale, Wolves,

Middlesbrough, Doncaster, Rother-

ham, Scunthorpe, York, Raith,

Arbroath, St Mirren.

## SECOND DIVISION

1 Derby v Oxford

2 Ipswich v Newcastle

3 Leicester v Barnsley

4 Middlesbrough v Bristol C

5 Middlesbrough v Southend

6 Middlesbrough v Grimsby

7 Middlesbrough v Barnet

8 Middlesbrough v Fleetwood

9 Middlesbrough v Hartlepool

10 Middlesbrough v Charlton

## TREBLE CHANCE (home teams): Notts

County, West Ham, Port Vale, Wolves,

Middlesbrough, Doncaster, Rother-

ham, Scunthorpe, York, Raith,

Arbroath, St Mirren.

## AWAYS:

1. Scunthorpe v Middlesbrough

2. Scunthorpe v West Ham

3. Scunthorpe v Middlesbrough

4. Scunthorpe v Rotherham

5. Scunthorpe v Scunthorpe

6. Scunthorpe v Charlton

7. Scunthorpe v Arbroath

8. Scunthorpe v St Mirren

9. Scunthorpe v Middlesbrough

10. Scunthorpe v West Ham

11. Scunthorpe v Scunthorpe

12. Scunthorpe v Charlton

13. Scunthorpe v Scunthorpe

14. Scunthorpe v Charlton

15. Scunthorpe v Scunthorpe

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19. Scunthorpe v Scunthorpe

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21. Scunthorpe v Scunthorpe

22. Scunthorpe v Charlton

23. Scunthorpe v Scunthorpe

24. Scunthorpe v Charlton

25. Scunthorpe v Scunthorpe



- GOLF 36
- RACING 37
- FOOTBALL 39

# THE TIMES SPORT

TUESDAY APRIL 7 1992

## Liverpool want to be in Europe for Souness



By STUART JONES  
FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT

FOR the second time in four seasons, winning the FA Cup has become a crusade for Liverpool.

In 1989 their Wembley triumph was dedicated to the 95 supporters who lost their lives in the Hillsborough tragedy. Now a campaign has been launched on behalf of their manager, Graeme Souness.

As Souness prepared to undergo triple heart bypass surgery, Ronnie Moran, his temporary successor at Anfield, yesterday declared the club's intentions. "We must try and give Graeme something to come back to," Moran said. "We must guarantee that he returns to a club

involved in European football next season."

The only possible route, through the Cup Winners' Cup, was all but blocked by Portsmouth at Highbury on Sunday. Liverpool equalised three minutes from the end of a protracted and dramatic semi-final which might have been designed to promote a cardiac arrest.

Considering the revelation which was to follow, Souness's reaction to Whelan's goal was even more remarkable. Unable to contain his emotion, he ran on to the pitch punching the air before sinking to his knees.

Nor did his demeanour during the press conference afterwards carry the slightest

hint of apprehension. Yet David Moores, the Liverpool chairman, revealed yesterday that all had not been well with Souness recently. "He hasn't been feeling quite right for some time," Moores said, "and he's been a little concerned."

At the age of 38, Souness is the youngest manager in the first division, but he will have suspected that coronary trouble might lie ahead. The disease is hereditary, and his father had to undergo similar surgery three years ago.

A week short of his first anniversary as the Liverpool manager, Souness knew of what they imagined that Souness was joking, but Moores underlined the gravity of the illness. "It is serious," he said, "but I know his character.

He's a fighter and he'll be back with all guns blazing."

Don Howe has demonstrated that rehabilitation can be complete. Three years after undergoing the same operation, he actively works with his Coventry City squad and insists that after practice his powers of recovery are unimpaired. He, too, expects Souness to be able to resume at the start of next season.

"A fitness fanatic, he is always down at the training ground first thing in the morning. He goes on runs and sometimes trains with the squad," Moran said.

When they were told during the journey back from North London, the players were no less startled. Initially they imagined that Souness was joking, but Moores underlined the gravity of the illness. "It is serious," he said, "but I know his character.

Souness, though under no such threat at Anfield, has already paid a high price. His marriage soured three years ago when he was in charge at Rangers; the club he left partly because he wanted to spend more time with his three young children, who live with his estranged wife in southern England.

Tony Barton survived a massive attack the previous year. The former Aston Villa manager was in Highbury's press box on Sunday and was able to empathise with Souness. "You could see his relief," he said. "That was the pressure coming out."

"I can understand the pressure he's been under. Liverpool's season has been disappointing by their standards and the bigger the pressure, the bigger the pressure. It gets to you on match days and during games. People don't realise that managers can't enjoy games. If your team loses, you can be out of a job."

HUGH ROUTLEDGE

### Four face inquiry in May

By JOHN GOODBODY

MAY will be one of the most crucial months for the integrity of world athletics, with four leading competitors facing inquiries by the International Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF) into drugs allegations.

On May 4, the arbitration panel of the IAAF will hear the case of Harry "Butch" Reynolds, the world 400 metres record-holder, who has been barred from competing internationally since 1986 following a positive drugs test in Monaco but has subsequently been cleared to take part in domestic competition in the United States.

On May 29 and 30 in Toronto, the IAAF Council will discuss the case of Katrin Krabbe, the world 100 and 200 metres champion, Silke Möller and Grit Breuer.

The four-year ban imposed on the three Germans was lifted on Sunday by the German Athletics Federation (DLV). The trio were originally suspended for allegedly manipulating urine samples during random tests in South Africa.

Hanging over both cases is the threat of legal action by the athletes, who among other things, would claim loss of earnings.

### Rules are relaxed for Lyle

FROM MITCHELL PLATTS  
GOLF CORRESPONDENT  
IN AUGUSTA, GEORGIA

SANDY Lyle is making Masters history here this week because he has been granted permission to take his wife, Joanne, who is caddying for him into the Augusta National clubhouse.

The rules and regulations at Augusta are so strict that no caddie has entered the clubhouse during the 56 years of the tournament.

The caddies at the Masters are provided with boiler-suits, plimsolls and baseball-style caps with the Augusta logo.

Lyle decided earlier this year to employ his wife rather than a professional caddie. Dave Musgrave caddied for Lyle for ten years during which time he won the Open Championship (1985) and the Masters (1988). Most observers believe that Lyle is making a mistake by taking his wife on his side, especially on the testing Augusta course.

Confident Faldo, page 36



Know what he means: Bruno looks on yesterday while his promoter, Mickey Duff, makes a point

## Bruno closes in on title shot

By SRIKUMAR SEN  
BOXING CORRESPONDENT

FRANK Bruno could be in a position to challenge for the world heavyweight title by the end of this year. His big chance would come as a result of the match with Pierre Coetzer, of South Africa, the World Boxing Association No. 1 and International Boxing Federation No. 2 contender, in September in Earls Court.

The players had asked for ten per cent their entitlement in the present Football League contract. If that figure has not been reached, a formula giving five or seven-and-a-half per cent up to £10 million, with a minimum guarantee of £1.5 million, and ten per cent thereafter, may be acceptable.

There is still some negotiating to be done and the two chief executives expect to meet within the next few days to begin to finalise the agreement. "It would be totally wrong to say it is settled," Taylor warned. "But things are coming closer together."

Speed remains essential. With the PFA's mandate from the ballot expiring in 28 days, they will want to have things virtually finalised well before then.

Chelsea seek deal, page 23

the other contenders, including Lennox Lewis. I have no hesitation in saying he is jumping the queue. That's common practice in boxing."

Before the year is out Bruno will be involved in discussions with Holyfield's people for a title bout sometime in the first half of 1993, January or February. The bout would be held either at Wembley Arena or Earls Court.

Duff said television would generate around £2 million gross.

"Bruno is far more marketable to Americans than anyone this side of the

Atlantic," Duff said. "He can generate so much money there's no one to touch him this side."

Bruno, who received letters from anti-apartheid groups the last time he boxed a South African, Gerrie Coetzee, in 1986, was relieved that sports barriers against South Africa are being lifted. "I find it an exciting prospect," Bruno said. "The South Africans are in Jamaica for cricket, so that opens the door."

Coetzter, who has had 38 contests and lost two 11 months ago outpointed Jose

Ribalta, the New York-based Cuban, whom Bruno will be meeting on April 22 at Wembley Arena.

Bruno has been preparing for Ribalta at a health farm in Leicestershire. He has been through eight sparring partners since coming here a month ago. Yesterday, he went six rounds — two rounds each with three sparring partners, David "Bigfoot" Johnson, weighing 20 stone, James Morton, 17st 2lb, and the leading contender for the British heavyweight title, Henry Akinwande, a lightweight by comparison at 16 stone.

Bruno, who expects to weigh in at 16½ stone for Ribalta, looked more heavily muscled than before, but moved smoothly about the ring to catch the nimble Akinwande with some good shots, especially hooks to the body, blows that looked good enough to stop Ribalta.

"Ribalta is a tall, tricky, skilful sort of fighter but if I hit one on the chin I'll knock him out," Bruno said.

"I'm not on overtime so if I see an opening I'll take it."

### Eubank ups the ante

CHRIS EUBANK yesterday put a £2 million price tag on any future rematch with Nigel Benn. The WBO super-middleweight champion said: "Otherwise the fight will just not happen. With a smile on my face, I will relinquish my crown and go for another world title."

"If the public want to see that fight they will have to pay for it, but to be honest I don't

think I have a cat in hell's chance of getting that type of money."

"I'm in the position to call the shots. I have sacrificed nine years of my life for this game. Now I want to be set free — £2 million would set me free. I could get a million, but 40 per cent would go to the tax man. It might even be 50 per cent or 80 per cent if a Labour government gets in."

Legend, Babe Ruth, once sold five-cent beer and ten-cent soup. George Will, a prominent political columnist, considers it such a shrine, such a masterpiece, that he proposed to his fiancée at home.

There are no columns to obstruct the 48,041 seats. A sub-surface vacuum drainage system makes the grass field playable within 30 minutes of a rainstorm. A \$4.8 million giant video scoreboard shows instant replays, cartoon animations and the most comprehensive baseball statistics anywhere.

There are 72 skyboxes costing up to \$95,000 a season.

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## Orioles' new stadium the hot ticket in town

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER  
IN WASHINGTON

THE American baseball season opened yesterday, and the demand to see the Baltimore Orioles' first game was phenomenal. Touts wanted up to \$350 a seat. Senators and congressmen from Washington pulled every string they had. One couple who asked the police whether it was legal to resell their tickets arrived home to find a message from the officer who had answered their inquiry. "I am willing to pay \$150 each," it said. "Please call me. This is not a set-up."

The attraction was not

milch cows that enable clubs to pay their players million-dollar salaries.

The new Camden Yards stadium has cost Eli Jacobs, the owner of the Orioles, practically nothing. The state of Maryland reckons the club generates \$100 million a year in economic activity. In return for an Orioles' commitment to stay in Baltimore until 2006, it has paid \$206 million to buy 85 acres of former railyards a couple of blocks from the inner harbour and build the stadium.

The Orioles' old 52,000-

seat Memorial Stadium would be the envy of any British football club. Certainly, it was fit to receive the Queen during last year's royal tour. But after 38 years, it faces demolition — too many seats with obstructed views, limited parking space and no corporate skyboxes, the

such superlative reviews that last Thursday's open day attracted 21,800. It is not a futuristic extravaganza like Toronto's \$575 million SkyDome with its retractable roof. It is a classic brick, steel and wrought-iron ballpark in the style of Chicago's Wrigley Field, Boston's Fenway Park and other great early twentieth-century stadiums, but with state-of-the-art technology.

The first Civil War deaths occurred in Camden Yards. Lincoln passed through on his way to Gettysburg. Centre field is the site of the row-house saloon where the parents of the baseball

legend, Babe Ruth, once sold

five-cent beer and ten-cent soup. George Will, a prominent political columnist, considers it such a shrine, such a masterpiece, that he proposed to his fiancée at home.

There are no columns to obstruct the 48,041 seats. A sub-surface vacuum drainage system makes the grass field playable within 30 minutes of a rainstorm. A \$4.8 million giant video scoreboard shows instant replays, cartoon animations and the most comprehensive baseball statistics anywhere.

There are 72 skyboxes costing up to \$95,000 a season.

Baseball's aficionados had plenty to talk about yesterday. Was the asymmetrical park, with its big left field, designed to help Cal Ripken, the Orioles' leading hitter, and a right-hander, reach the Hall of Fame?

Beyond right field is a restored railway warehouse,

the East Coast's longest

housing the Orioles' offices.

It is 460 feet from home plate, just reachable by a mighty left-hander helped by the prevailing northwest wind. The player who does so will win a car.

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Source: Future

## Four facts inquiry in May

In the 42 years  
since his death,  
George Bernard  
Shaw's estate has  
earned millions.  
**Michael Holroyd**  
asks where they are

**E**veryone knows that George Bernard Shaw left his money to promote a new phonetic alphabet. No one seems to know what happened to that alphabet or where his money now goes.

Shaw's income, which at present includes royalties from the new touring production of *My Fair Lady* led by Edward Fox, as well as from Trevor Nunn's production of *Heartbreak House*, starring Paul Scofield and Vanessa Redgrave, at the Theatre Royal, Haymarket, and from the open-stage version of *Pygmalion* at the National Theatre, is still considerable almost 42 years after his death. This financial year, I calculate, it will amount to £500,000. Such earnings will continue coming in until the end of the year 2000, when Shaw's copyright on works published during his lifetime ends.

In the 1950s, the Shaw estate was valued at more than £700,000 (the equivalent of well over £6 million today) and the death duties to be paid on this sum, which was assessed on the nominal worth of his copyrights, totalled £524,000 (now equivalent to nearly £5 million). In his will, Shaw had directed that his money should go to the advancement of a new phonetic alphabet for the first 21 years of the 50-year posthumous copyright period and then, after 1971 and until the end of the century, in equal measures to three residuary legatees: the National Gallery of Ireland in Dublin, "to which I owe much of the only real education I ever got as a boy in Eire"; the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art, on whose council he had served from 1911 to 1941; and "the trustees of the British Museum in acknowledgement of the incalculable value to me of my daily resort to the reading room of that institution at the beginning of my career".

Thomas Hardy had left £91,000 in 1928, G.K. Chesterton £28,000 in 1936, J.M. Barrie £173,000 in 1937 and H.G. Wells £60,000 in 1946. The price put on Shaw's estate was phenomenal, and since he had given away his house and its contents to the National Trust and made a dozen annuities to members of his family and people who had worked for him, it appeared as if the death duties could not be paid off much before the alphabet's 21-year term as beneficiary had expired. In other words, there was no serious money here.

Everything was to change on March 15, 1956, when *My Fair Lady* opened on Broadway with Rex Harrison and Julie Andrews. Even at the previews in New Haven it had been obvious that this was going to be a spectacularly successful musical. Starting its run in the centenary year of Shaw's birth, when the number of international performances of his plays multiplied and a contract for Otto Preminger's film version of *Saint Joan*, to be scripted by Graham Greene, was signed, *My Fair Lady* was to transform the financial position of the Shaw estate. Eleven days after its Broadway opening,

The Times announced that the two English residuary legatees, the British Museum and the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art, were to challenge the validity of Shaw's alphabet trust in the courts.

The hearing lasted more than nine days. Delivering his judgment on February 20, 1957, Mr Justice Harman admitted to some reluctance in preventing a man disposing of his money as he wanted. Nevertheless, this was what he was going to do. For who was to know whether Shaw's alphabetical project was truly beneficial? He was not at liberty, the judge concluded, to confer the halo of charitable status on the alphabetical trust merely because they tended to "the increase of public knowledge".

The irony was not lost upon the Shavians in court. Throughout his life Shaw had resisted all appeals to "downgrade" *Pygmalion* into a musical. "I absolutely forbid any such outrage," he wrote in his 92nd year. Yet it was this forbidden musical, based on his phonetic fairytale, that was now subverting his own phonetic experiment.

Small gangs of alphabetical enthusiasts went on the offensive, holding press conferences, provoking questions in the House of Commons, publishing bulletins in *The Times* and eventually moving Shaw's executor, the Public Trustee, to bring the matter before the Court of Appeal. There, on December 17, 1957, an out-of-court settlement of £8,300 (equivalent to almost £75,000 today) was approved by the Master of the Rolls, Lord Evershed. This money was eventually spent on the complex creation of a 48-letter alphabet and the publication by Penguin Books in 1962 of the most extraordinary volume in its history: a bi-alphabetic edition of *Androcles and the Lion: An Old Fable Renovated by Bernard Shaw with a Parallel Text*.

in Shaw's Alphabet to be Read in Conjunction Showing its Economics in Writing and Reading. More than 50,000 copies of this book were distributed around the world before the settlement money was exhausted.

In 1958, the three residuary legatees began receiving their Shaw royalties. Towards the end of 1959, Sir Edward Boyle informed the House of Commons that this sum had reached about £250,000 (equivalent to more than £2 million today). It is not easy to estimate the grand accumulation of Shaw's royalties since then. From what evidence exists, it would appear that the Shaw estate has probably received some £9 million, but the earlier instalments would have to be multiplied by a factor of seven or eight to reach a realistic figure in 1992.

The British Museum reported in the early 1960s that most of its Shaw money had been invested by a firm of merchant bankers "on the best terms the market will offer". If this continued to be done for more than 30 years, the capital and income should now be very large indeed. Certainly, Sir Richard Attenborough, the chairman of the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art, believes that the academy would have had to close without its share of G.B.S.'s royalties. The purchases by the National Gallery of Ireland from its Shaw fund between 1959

and 1985 reveal a wonderful enhancement of its collection. They include, among more than 100 paintings, watercolours, drawings and sculpture, works by Goya, Courbet, Fragonard, Sigmar, René, Joshua Reynolds, Camille Pissarro and Jack Yeats.

**B**ut there were some troubling aspects to these happy inheritances. Is *My Fair Lady* behind the real-life drama at RADA? asked *The Sunday Times* in 1965. Shaw's royalties, which transformed RADA from an orphan into an heiress, also indirectly led to the resignation of its much-loved principal, John Fernald, and the subsequent withdrawal of its Treasury grant. At the National Gallery of Ireland, too, where purchases from its Shaw fund suddenly ceased in 1985, a conflict between private and public money seems to have arisen. Shaw's royalties over the last seven years were being used to meet expenses that would normally have been the responsibility of the British Library. Perhaps the British Museum also conceals a loss of integrity over its use of Shaw's money.

Shaw did not name the British Library in his will because the books and manuscripts department of the British Museum did not separate and become known as the British Library until 1973. But when he referred to the British Museum in his letters, the context shows that he had in mind the queen's manuscript division. What he described in his will as "such letters and documents as might be worth preserving in a public collection such as that of the British Museum", including drafts of 18 plays, were handed to the manuscripts department by the Public Trustee and now form part of the British Library's large Shaw collection.

To guard against similar financial incursions, the British Museum decided to veil its own Shaw fund in secrecy. In 1965, in answer to a parliamentary question, Jennie Lee had told the House of Commons that the British Museum had received £64,417 4s 3d (equivalent now to more than £4 million) as its

share of the Shaw royalties. Twenty-five years later, Tim Renton, the minister for the arts and libraries, refused to answer a question about the museum's Shaw money on the grounds that this was "not a subject on which I have any specific responsibility". On the advice of Sir David Wilson, the director of the British Museum, the trustees had long ago decided not to disclose details of their Shaw capital and income to anyone, but to treat it all as private monies out of reach of Treasury scrutiny. In an age of cumulative underfunding of our national arts institutions, secrecy and guile have been forced on many who try to represent the best interests of these institutions. But the pragmatism of the British Museum also conceals a loss of integrity over its use of Shaw's money.

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On December 17, 1959, Sir Edward Boyle told the House of Commons that the British Museum had promised to set up a capital fund and so that "no act of courtesy was done to the dead". This had given an assurance that the income from this capital "would be used primarily for the benefit of the

following the recent discovery of Shaw's correspondence with Ellen Terry. This has been valued at a "willing seller willing buyer" price of £75,000 and offered to the British Library, which has asked the new director of the British Museum, Dr Robert Anderson, for Shaw's money to purchase Shaw's correspondence.

The purchase of this correspondence could be one of the "key changes" promised by Dr Anderson on his appointment, signalling a new spirit of co-operation. But such a donation will not cancel out the misdirection of Shaw's funds over a long period. Perhaps that is now a matter for Shaw's executor, the Public Trustee, to examine.

© Michael Holroyd 1992

• Bernard Shaw, Volume 4, The Last Laugh, by Michael Holroyd, is published this week by Chatto & Windus (£10.99)

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TOMORROW  
The Althorp inheritance

## A myriad lost ages of man (and boy)

### MID LIFE

Neil Lyndon on the  
missed opportunities  
to impress junior



was that I was too knackered to lift the bat and lobbed a soft catch into the hands of mid-wicket.

Everything, therefore, was sublime, except for the age of the boy. Two months short of his second birthday, he was parked in his buggy on the boundary and absorbed, throughout my innings, in a bottle of juice. Of the greatest cricketing feat of my adult life, he

remembers not a single shot.

By the time he was old enough to pay attention, I was past it — overweight, sight gone, poked in back, hip and shoulder (see previous complaints). I played a match when he was five and, going for a fast ball in the field, split the seams in my trousers and had to hide my shame behind the pavilion. Last summer, when he was eight, we went over to the nets for a Friday evening practice. One of the village lads had asked me to observe and comment upon his fast-bowler's run and delivery action. He felt that I could perform this service best from the receiving end. There wasn't much wrong, that I could see, with his action: I didn't see a single one of his deliveries coming out of the evening sun, off a 30-yard run, this 16-year-old six-footer bowled me, middle-stump, with three consecutive balls, the last of which shattered the stump. My son was standing beside me outside the net. He gazed at the broken wicket and said, "You know what, Dad? You're useless at this game." He will never see me in my pomp.

When I was his age, I reckoned my dad the equal of Len Hurton. My son thinks that John Major is a better bat than I. How should he understand that it is our age and our ages which are out of joint?

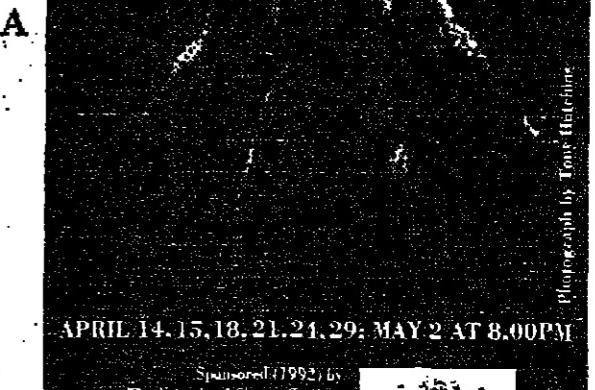
Most of my male friends became fathers in their mid to late thirties. One of my closest friends is 48 and has two children under the age of seven for whose education, he recognises, he is going to have to work and pay until he retires. Another man I know is just about to become a father for the first time at 52. He might be 75 before his child graduates. He may not count on being around for the ceremony.

In a better world, men of our age should be looking forward to becoming grandfathers for the first time rather than teaching games to a first-born who has yet to attain years in double figures. If I ever get to see a grandchild, I am likely to be drawing my state pension and, if the present rate of decline and decay continues, I shall think myself lucky if I can discern his or her form at all. If I ever get to watch a grandson play cricket, it will probably be from a wheelchair parked on the boundary with a soothing bottle of hemlock lodged between my gums.

Oh, well: mustn't grumble. I can still hammer the little blighter at croquet. That's a big consolation and I am making the most of it. Anyone for bowls?

TOMORROW  
Single Life: Lynne Truss

EDWARD DOWNES CONDUCTS DAVID FREEMAN'S NEW PRODUCTION OF THE FIERY ANGEL PROKOFIEV'S OPERATIC MASTERPIECE



APRIL 14, 15, 18, 21, 24, 29; MAY 2 AT 8.00PM

Sponsored (1992) by The Friends of Covent Garden Co-produced with The Kirby Opera, St Peter's Church, BOX OFFICE: 071 240 1066 / 1911

ROYAL OPERA HOUSE



# How Elizabethans pit their wits

## THEATRE

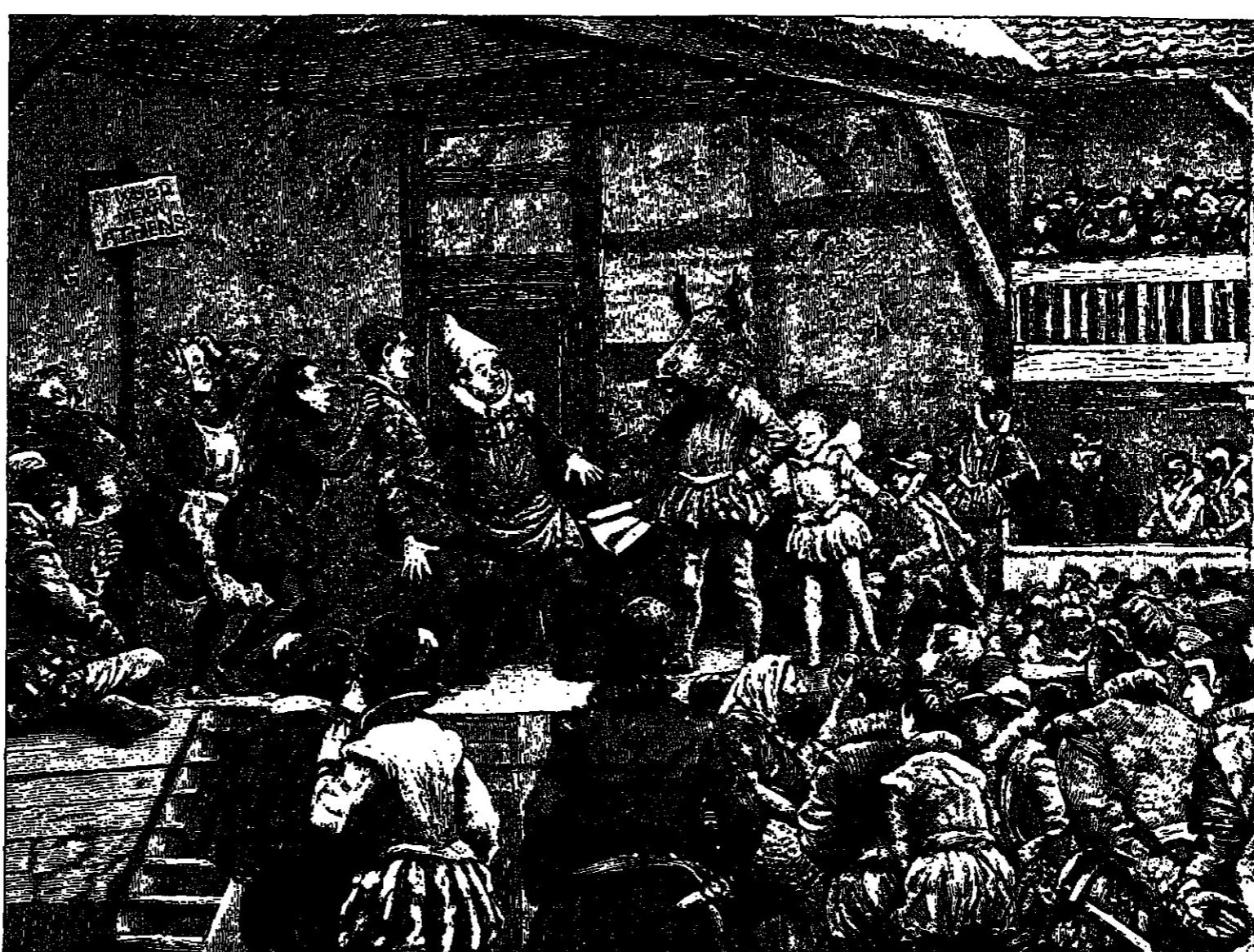
An exhibition at the Museum of London sheds new light on how theatregoers behaved in the 16th century. Joseph Williams reports

**W**est End theatre productions are too long and too slow. At least, the Elizabethans would have thought so. Their plays were performed in two hours with no interval, and live theatre was as popular as bear-baiting and cock-fighting. Shakespeare and Marlowe were safe commercial options, attracting all classes of society from groundlings to lords.

With the Museum of London set to unveil a model of the Rose Theatre, based on excavations of the site in 1988, the handful of artefacts discovered — and now displayed with the model — offer a tantalising glimpse into history. A shingle, a scabbard, a leather shoe, a baluster: not much else. But the actor playing Faustus might have looked at that stung, or that baluster, as his eyes rolled upwards to seek divine salvation.

His audience might have been on the edge of their benches, except most of them were standing anyway. It is awe-inspiring to think that ordinary people stood in the steaming rain, in freezing conditions, many giving up a whole day's wages, just to hang upon the words of a dramatic genius. Only a few streets away, mastiff dogs were tearing apart maddened and blinded bears in pits, goaded by illiterate oafs. Further on, at Tyburn, near Marble Arch, there were public executions. Everywhere was the stench of open sewers.

But the theatre was every bit as frenetic and dynamic as a bullfight. Rows of jostling, chattering, laughing characters filled the audience from fiery Tybaltis and snark-guzzling Falstaffs to wart-covered Calibans. Apple cores and orange peel were routinely flung at bad actors, adding zest to the occasion.



Groundlings installed: an Elizabethan playhouse during *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, by H.M. Paget. Mary Evans Picture Library

civil war in 1642, and the Puritan suppression of all theatres, about nine playhouses were operating in London, the most famous of which was the Globe, built in 1599, where Shakespeare's greatest tragedies premiered.

The Rose was a typical playhouse unroofed, except for the galleries and a canopy called the heavens — “fretted with golden fire” — which overlay the stage on pillars. Here, Edward Alleyn brought to life Marlowe's big tragic roles.

He had no curtain, virtually no painted scenery, and few props. An audience watching

a Shakespearian comedy knew that a scene was set in Illyria or the Forest of Arden only because a character immediately told them so in the lines.

**A**udiences were on the ball: much more used to listening and imagining than today's visually-orientated spectators. Today, we like to see trees on stage for our Forest of Arden, and then we complain if they look unreal. For Elizabethans, the richness of the language alone turned a court scene into a forest, or day into night, or joy into despair.

Theatre was a means of communication,” says Rosemary Weinstein, curator of

post-medieval London history at the Museum of London. “Plays were very topical, full of information and news, and for illiterate Londoners there were few places to learn what was going on.”

The audience was certainly sprinkled with curpuses and soliciting harlots, but most people came to see the play. Unlike today, new plays and new writers were virtually guaranteed large audiences, unless bouts of plague closed all of London's theatres, forcing companies to tour the regions.

We should feel no guilt about leaving before the inter-

val in a dull and meretricious modern production. Perhaps we should be armed with rotten apple cores, just in case?

Certainly, the thrill of standing in rows at the last night of the Proms, or even giggling and munching popcorn at the movies, gets closer to the spirit of Renaissance theatre than the awkward silence that can descend, pall-like, on modern West End audiences.

● The Rose Theatre model forms part of a permanent display

Tudor and Stuart Theatre — to be seen from today at the Museum of London, London Wall, EC2Y 071-600 3699. Open daily except Mondays.

## ARTS BRIEF Higher digits

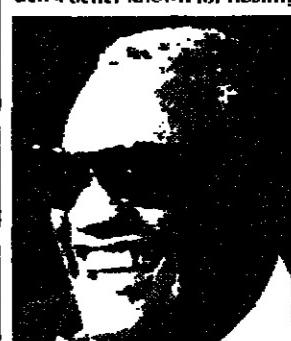
DIGITAL Equipment Company, one of Britain's biggest sponsors of the arts, has announced an increased commitment to the arts this year. Spending will rise to £500,000 from last year's £500,000, with dance continuing to take the lion's share. The Digital Dance Awards are worth £130,000 in 1992; the company is sponsoring English National Ballet's new production of *Cinderella*, which premieres in Southampton on April 29; and there is a new production of the Dickens classic *A Christmas Carol*, set to a Carl Davis score, due this autumn for Northern Ballet Theatre.

### About Ackland

THE silvery tones of Sir John Gielgud will be heard next Sunday at the Orange Tree Theatre in Richmond, remembering Rodney Ackland, who died last year. There will also be reminiscences of the dramatist from Francis King, Hilary Spurling and others, and extracts from several of his plays, including *The Dark River*, now playing at the Orange Tree itself.

### Not rock?

BLACKPOOL is launching a jazz festival. It is to be held in July in the city's Winter Gardens, better known for hosting



Ray Charles: he may be coming to Blackpool

party-political spectacles in the autumn. The festival is promising a lineup which includes both jazz and blues performers and among those already pencilled in are B.B. King, Ray Charles, Lionel Hampton, Cab Calloway, Robert Flack, Nina Simone, Georgie Fame, Alan Price, Mari Wilson and George Melly. The Blackpool Jazz Festival will open on July 9.

### Last chance ...

EDWARD Bond's *The Sea* has a humanity and humour missing in his more recent work, and Sam Mendes' revival at the National can also boast a fine performance from Dame Judi Dench. She brings inborn arrogance and gentle aggression to the role of an Edwardian lady of the manor, but also a touching regret for the years she has squandered on bullying her social underlings. Final performances are at the Lyceum (071-928 2252) on Thursday.

## CLASSICAL MUSIC

### Showbiz, but with restraint

**W**ith a spruce baroque flourish of the Royal Philharmonic's solo trumpet, José Carreras event was upon us. In the sold-out Albert Hall, stage management was all. The opening of Alessandro Scarlatti's “Giulio, sole dal Gange” was matched by the evening's finale. In a crude, but effective *coup de théâtre*, a little erratum slip removed Tosif's “L'ultima canzone” from its original place in the programme, freeing Carreras to interpret its meaning literally and gloriously by restoring it as his final encore.

For such an occasion, of course, the encores are inevitably equal in both number and importance to the programme itself. And more so than ever this time. As if deliberately to tone down the big arena showmanship of the event, Carreras had started soberly and had started as he meant to go on. Stradella's “Pietà signore” was etched austere in fine

tenor silverpoint; Meyerbeer's “O paradiso” held more sounds and sweet airs than sensual delights.

No tear could have moistened the eye until the first vocal sob of that “fulla lagrima”. Even after the interval it took the click of castanets to stir the audience in readiness for a *zurzuela* extract, Sorozábal's “No puede ser!”. Here, at last, was the voice rollercoasting on the body of strings, the High Note for the catching, the meltdown to the flutes, as his final encore.

What was really wanted, though, was the Granada and the Sorrento of the encores, the “Cara mia” addressed fervently to the fireside throwing front row. Poor Stefania Tocyska more than adequately filled the spaces in between, her Polish mezzo soprano surging valiantly through “Printemps qui commence” and “Stride la vampa”. Elio Boncompagni conducted.

At the Festival Hall the next

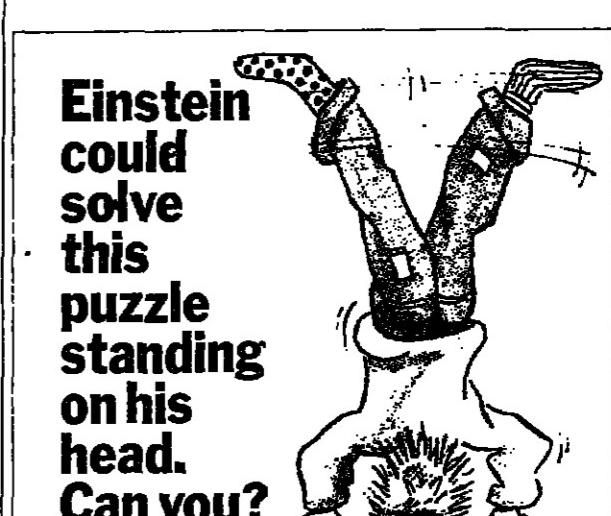
day, the great Kurt Masur conducted for the soprano Kathleen Battle. Saturday's London Philharmonic concert represented a true and proper meeting of musical minds.

**L**ondon is at present basking in the presence of Masur, first there were Strauss's *Four Last Songs* with Julia Varady; now, in no less enriching partnership, four of the composer's orchestral songs with Battle. Masur, as accompanist supreme, moulded the LPO at damp clay. Battle's voice in turn became, wonderfully, both flame and a child's perception of flame in the fireside cameo “Amor”. She dared a slow “Wiegenlied” with Masur guiding his moth-like violins minutely away from the heat of the tempo, before a finely balanced “Morgen!”

Earlier, Battle had sung four orchestral songs by Duparc. Flanking the vocal centre of

the evening were two orchestral pieces for the LPO's Diaghilev series. One of them, as it happens, bypassed the impresa at its premiere, and the other was rejected by him. Never mind, Masur and the LPO more than justified their performances of Stravinsky's suite from *The Fairy's Kiss* and Prokofiev's *Sylvia Suite*.

● HILARY FINCH



## TELEVISION REVIEW

### Glossing our glossolalia

**I**inguistics, though fascinating, is not the most visual of subjects. If it's pictures you want, grammar rates slightly lower than algebra and marginal tax rates. Nevertheless, BBC 2's *Horizon* made a characteristically brave and intelligent effort to tackle it last night in *Before Babylon*.

Professor Dennett argued that Descartes was wrong to “think therefore he was”, and that we are made up of a billion electrical circuits, each one storing a scrap of information which, if added up in a certain way, produces the essential You. Add them up in another way and you get the essential You. Add them up in yet another way and you get the essential Someone Else, who might only exist in the perception of another heap of circuits inside the body of another person who thinks they are someone else too. If that means that while one conscious entity is sitting here writing a radio review, somewhere in another part of this body another person is reading the papers or (for all I know) walking to the pub, I think I'll join her.

The programme explored the latest work on the wild frontiers of linguistics that tries to trace all the 5,000 languages that exist today, and the many thousands more that have died. Back to a single common mother language somewhere between 10,000 and 100,000 years ago. Back to *Genesis* 11, in fact, where the Lord declares, jealously: “Go to, let us go down, and there confound their language, that they may not understand one another's speech.” It seems unfriendly. The name for this hypothetical

cal great-grandmother of all languages, it will probably have been Africa, which would not have existed in its present continental shape. The first talkers were hunter nomads, and the language that can be reconstructed for them, from the surviving fossils in later languages, was strong on tracks and joints of antelopes, and void of the jargon of farming philosophy.

You will bump into some remarkable similarities on your way, with fundamental words such as *one* and *two*, and *milk* and *water*, which can be thought to sound alike in every language under the wandering moon. You will bump into some remarkable discrepancies, such as *Euskera*, the language of the Basques, which suggests that they were the original inhabitants of Europe, long before we later immigrants from the Middle East arrived. Basque shepherds still ad lib alternate couples of verse, as in *Theocritus*. If you want to believe in a single source for the original

Π	Π	✓	✓	28
Π	Π	Π	Π	24
≈	≈	%	✓	42
✓	%	≈	Π	36

### HOW TO SOLVE THE PUZZLE

The different symbols have different values. Added together they give the totals shown. Work out the missing total for the left hand column. If you can solve this puzzle you could be eligible to join Mensa. The High IQ Society

Send coupon for further details and a copy of the self-administered test  
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## RADIO REVIEW

### If you think that's funny



Ronnie Barker: his comedy style was analysed in the first of Radio 2's series *Funny That Way* (Saturdays)

fashioned laugh, though, seek out *Funny That Way* (Radio 2, Saturday, in which Barry Cryer pulls off that simplest of successful tricks — shovelling the best of a comedian's material into a nostalgic half-hour and letting us get on with a happy wallow. There are 13 comes in the series (Groucho Marx got the treatment last Saturday and Joyce Grenfell comes next) but it began with Ronnie Barker, a man who could double an entendre with the best of them.

**W**hat strikes you most about Barker's routines now are their pace and polish — a confident sickness which is almost as unfashionable these days as his occasional sexism. Comedians don't do jokes about women's chests any more, but Barker came from a simpler age, when women were girls, men were allowed to ogle them, and the purpose of comedy was sometimes to notice the difference. You don't have to agree, but you really do have to laugh.

At his best, however, *Bull!* is going to be exuberant, edgy and blissfully outspoken and if radio is to keep its reputation as the best comedy club in town, programmes such as *Bull!* should be congratulated for growing up fast enough to accommodate it.

If you crave a good old-

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PATRICK STODDART

# Birds and the bewildered



**Sex education has moved from behind the bike shed into the family home.**  
**Jonathon Green gives it a whirl**

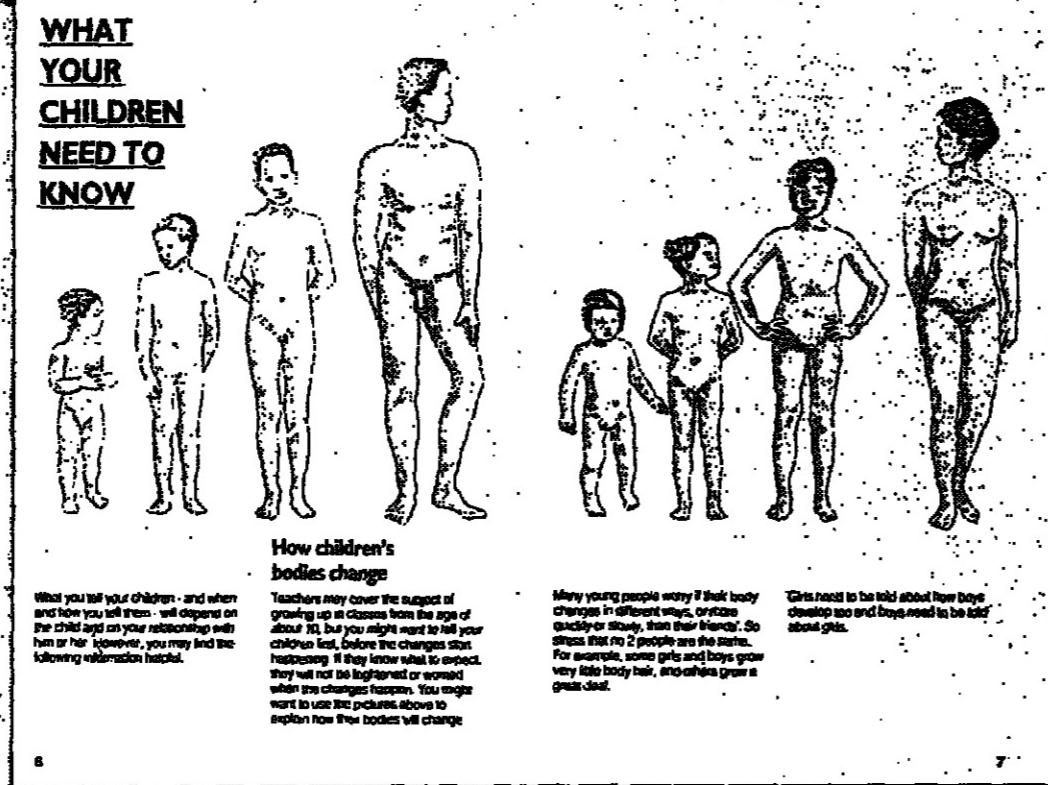
Come any birthday, the head of my elder son's nursery school, an ex-pat white South African of impeccable liberalism, would sit the tines down, and ritualistically intone the child's life to date. Which meant going back to mummy, daddy and the nuptial couch and letting it all hang out. The full tour d'horizon: foreplay, erection, penetration, intercourse, sperm, ovum, fertilisation, the growing embryo and finally birth itself.

There were many birthdays and, picking up one's child, the odds were that one would stumble on a circle of rising fours slightly nonplussed as yet again they had been told. "Then your daddy put his penis into your mummy's vagina." It was not until later that my son explained that their confusion stemmed from the fact that daddy, having put his penis in, never apparently, since no such reference was included, took it out.

Ask any agony aunt or uncle: we may have had the so-called sexual revolution, we may have had 20 years of gender politics, and we are certainly crotch-diluted in the most serious sexually transmitted disease since the discovery of Syphilis, but when it comes to the plain old facts about sex we're still back in the dark ages.

Sex education of the young, those taking sexuality on board for the first time, remains a problem. Not as to availability — the shelves are crammed with audio-visual aids, all geared to getting the message across, and a pretty explicit message it can be — but far more in the realms of embarrassment. And while most of us do find out what's what at school, what we actually take on board is more likely to originate in the playground than in the classroom. It may be better — or at least less painful — than a wincing teacher, but peer group misinformation leaves gaps.

To counter some of this, and



Letting it all hang out: sexual advice for children and parents from the Family Planning Association

minimise the embarrassment factor, the Family Planning Association (FPA) has released three 16-page pamphlets as parts of the new series entitled *Growing Up*. They include "Sexuality" aimed at teens, "How Your Body Changes" for eight to twelve-year-olds, and for parents "Answering Your Child's Questions". Aimed four-square at breaching the communications barrier.

What the FPA wants is "to encourage and equip parents to become better sex educators". In short, to get away from the playground and put the emphasis on parental rather than teacherly guidance. This may sound like yet another item that, like the extracurricular purchase of books, falls into the category of "get the parents to do the work", but to the FPA it's making them "the primary source" of sex education. It's from parents, not teachers or peers, that the information should come: facts on masturbation, wet dreams, periods, Aids and the rest.

Good solid stuff, although, as usual, naughty old hedonism is shoved firmly into the back seat and sex is looked at not primarily as a source of pleasure but as one of problems. That should please traditionalists, the more extreme of whom loathe the whole idea anyway, but the

FPA's suggestion that parents should start sex education "earlier rather than later" will set hackles rising. As ever, it's that old buster "What you don't know won't hurt you" going one on one with the young contender. "Say it out loud, my body's changing and I'm proud".

The FPA opts for the latter and, in "How Your Body Changes", they lay it all on the line. The enquiring eight to twelve-year-old can check out public and other body hair, genital size, erections, periods, ovaries and the like. Whether the younger end of the audience will really understand much of this remains debatable. Indeed, between acne, body odour, unprecedented weight gain, and a variety of hitherto unappreciated bodily fluids, the impressionable eight-year-old might well choose to stick with Peter Pan as a role model. No matter, the book is simple and it clearly answers the questions it chooses to pose.

"Sexuality" geared to teenagers, is the logical successor, taking in HIV and Aids, contraception, a mini glossary (orgasm, oral sex, bisexual, etc), abortion and a variety of questions and answers from *Jug 17* magazine's agony uncle. And, like its

junior, "Sexuality" stresses everybody's sexual autonomy. "Your body belongs to you. Don't let anyone make you do anything you don't really want to."

The pamphlet is, and once again it requires minimal effort to hear the old alarm bells peeling out, staunchly non-judgmental and morally all very state of the art — masturbation does no harm, sexual preference is strictly up to the individual.

For every "sex is fun, sexuality is good", though, there's a warning, however liberal. Just because you can, doesn't mean you have to...

"Answering Your Child's Questions" essentially encapsulates the material offered in its companions; where it differs is in sections on communication, and the concomitant embarrassment. There's no doubt among the experts, and this pamphlet underlines it, the more open your attitudes to sex in the family, the better will be your children's ability to deal with their own developing maturity.

So supportive, be informative, deal as much with the positive as the dysfunctional side of sex, and above all don't be embarrassed. And goodness knows we want to be all the above, yet somehow, try as I did, it didn't happen for me.

The FPA has seen off my embarrassment, but adolescent boys are made of more determined stuff. Defeated, an inadequate father, I repair to a much less respectable chaste. "Is sex dirty?" Woody Allen asks. I relax in his answer: "Yes, if it's done right."

## Sowing the regional seeds of nursery school discontent

House-movers are counting the cost of patchy pre-school provision

There are three things which matter when considering where to live, estate agents say: location, location and location.

Location matters in well publicised ways such as access to public transport, shopping and good secondary schools, but also in less publicised ways too. Chief among these is access to nursery education, too often forgotten by the parent considering the virtues of a particular house.

The availability of nursery school places varies wildly across London, for example. While Merton, Hounslow and Haringey top the league, providing nursery education for more than 70 per cent of three and four-year-olds; Westminster, Kensington and Chelsea, and Bexley languish near the bottom. Worst of all is Bromley, with places for only 17.7 per cent.

The national average of 47.9 per cent of children in nursery school compares with 95 per cent in Belgium and France, and 65 to 75 per cent in Germany, according to the Association of London Authorities.

For those opting for private education, the question might seem academic. But even those who have the money may resent fees of up to £2,000, especially when there is no proof that private nursery education is better than the state alternative.

"There is no way of knowing because there are no tests at that age," says Ralph Lavender from the National Association for Primary Education. "So it is very annoying for parents to have to fork out."

In certain parts of the country they have no choice. Sue Dudley, a teacher and the mother of Thomas, aged three, and Sophia, aged eight months, lives in Gerrards Cross in Buckinghamshire, where she has yet to find any state nursery schools.

Instead, Ms Dudley is considering a nursery school which is part of a pre-prep school, which charges £50 a week. At £1,750 a year, while still cheaper than the other

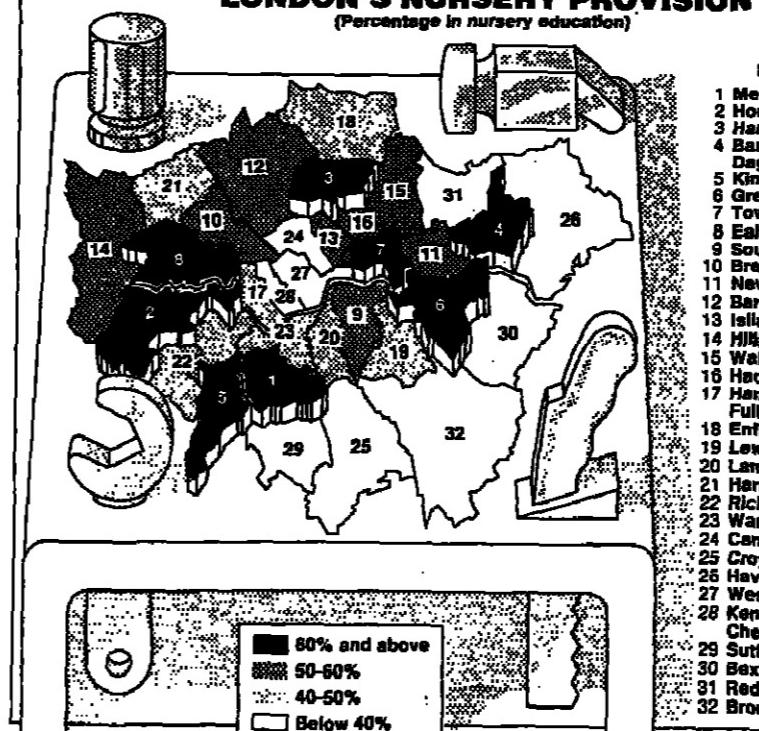
local nursery, which would have charged £175 for her two children, this is the sort of sum which could topple finely balanced calculations on mortgage repayments.

"When we moved to the area we didn't give it a thought," Ms Dudley says. "I suppose it was stupid. One investigates quite closely every other decision and how much it will cost, or the cost of decorating. But children are one area where one has a rosy glow. You don't have children because of the costs."

The provision of state-run nursery education would make a huge difference, she says. "One is comparing having to pay thousands of pounds, or getting nothing at the moment."

People in Redbridge, where only 28.7 per cent of children find nursery places, recount tales of parents failing addresses to get their children into the rare local schools which exist. The Labour party's manifes-

### LONDON'S NURSERY PROVISION (Percentage in nursery education)



only a passing reference in the Conservative party manifesto, however: "We will continue to encourage the provision of nursery places by local education authorities, the voluntary and independent sectors."

Pending such changes, it is hard for parents to know which areas are best for nur-

## Danger: child on, bored

How to survive a long holiday journey without wanting to murder your nearest and dearest

School holidays are upon us, and everything eggs us on to take an Easter break, to get away from it all. But if you have children, you never can, entirely. Unlike the other accumulated treasures of life, you are obliged to take them with you when you go.

While the child-free may let their imaginations be transported to the pastures pleasures of a day in Bournemouth, weekend in Paris or ten days in Antibes, those with children have to concentrate their minds on the journey. Trains and boats and planes — transports of delight for some, vehicles of despair for others.

Most journeys will at least begin with a car journey. Curious that so many pit-stops are provided en route for your car, which was designed to cover long distances, yet for small children, whose design for travelling even short distances is defective, there are few facilities.

At every other traffic light, young entrepreneurs with bucket and wiper blade will leap out and insist on a valet service for your front window, but who offers similar attentions to your children? In fact, there's no swifter such unwanted advances than by suggesting that they forget about the windscreens and whilst their chummy over the sticky baby in the back.

You may be lucky. Perhaps you've spawned the sort of offspring that is instantly lulled into sleep by the motion of a car. Car advertisements already feature babies lullabyed to sleep by smooth suspension; no doubt it will shortly be part of the specification: this model will put a baby to sleep in 0-60 seconds. But at least there's no embarrassment.

Which cannot be said for his elder sibling. Six foot two at 14, ever more hirsute, voice lone-broken, a regular borrower of the paternal razor. The subject is broken. A deep pink suffuses the bum stuff. "I know all about it." Where do you learn? Sex education at school? "No, I just know." Read the pamphlet, "No, I offer money. We bargain. He reads. I reopen the discussion. He clams up. I consult the parental manual. A soap opera relationship is a possible stimulus for chat. I don't think they have relationships in *The Bill*. A new baby in the family? Not with my vasectomy. A pregnant per. Like me, the car is spied. This is disastrous. I withdraw my bribe. He affects insouciance. I threaten. I cajole. I plead. I up my bribe. Nothing doing. It must be me. The FPA seems to have it well enough down.

Children want to know, parents need to tell. "Responsibility" bulk large amid the labia and testes and I am trying, for God's sake. I'm not embarrassed; indeed, in the midst of writing a book on this very subject it takes some pretty weird stuff to face me. But my first born, the fruit of my loins, does not want to know. Or maybe he does. I offer money. We bargain. He reads. I reopen the discussion. He clams up. I consult the parental manual. A soap opera relationship is a possible stimulus for chat. I don't think they have relationships in *The Bill*. A new baby in the family? Not with my vasectomy. A pregnant per. Like me, the car is spied. This is disastrous. I withdraw my bribe. He affects insouciance. I threaten. I cajole. I plead. I up my bribe. Nothing doing. It must be me. The FPA seems to have it well enough down.

For journeys in planes or trains or cars I know of only one solution — extra luggage. Get each child to pack its own bag of entertainments, let them explain to customs why they're importing 13 Syltian bunnies.

Until someone invents a viable system of particle transfer ("Beam me up, Scotland") or a time Tardis, the problem remains. Most children, like fine wines, do not travel well. And there is no truth in that travellers' tale: I have always found that however optimistic you are by nature, it is not better to travel hopefully. Far better to arrive.

**DAVINA LLOYD**  
• The author is the editor of Parenting Plus magazine.

ground in the country," she says, although a lively village with an active parish council tends to encompass a lively playgroup or nursery school as well.

Estates agents are ill-informed on the subject. Ms McGhie says: "It's best to go to the village and actually talk to people and pick up the social indicators."

A good state nursery school, in itself, will not affect property prices unless it is combined with a good secondary school. In Wandsworth, however, the fame of the Beatrix Potter state nursery school adds a premium of about 10 per cent to property prices in the area, says Emma Collins from estate agents Barnard Marcus.

Nursery schools not only affect the children, points out Ms McGhie. "They are also very important for mothers under pressure, who are feeling depressed and trapped with young children."

Her advice is for young parents to think carefully about the provision of nursery education before their next move. Estate agents should perhaps rephrase their platitudes. There are three things that matter when moving: location, location, and nursery education. It even rhymes.

**RACHEL KELLY**

# Last leap for the House of Lords?

If election pledges are kept, the second chamber could be nearer than ever to the brink.

**Kate Muir asks peers their plans**

**L**ike most other Marxist institutions, the House of Lords has had its day. The 4th Earl Russell alerted peers to this and their true political nature in a speech to the House in 1978. "There should be universal leisure for all and a standing wage ought to be supplied... so that everybody becomes a leisured aristocrat - aristocrats are Marxists."

He added that "naked bathing on beaches or in rivers ought to be universal", and finished with the prescient warning: "Mr Brezhnev and Mr Carter are really the same person." The earl's endearing dottiness was fanned, one previous contribution being a speech on crocheting his trousers out of string.

Such speeches will soon be no more, if the hung Parliament or the Kinnoch victory looming in some polls becomes reality. Eccentricity is threatened. Both Labour and the Liberal Democrats have pledged to abolish the House of Lords, yet no one is paying that fact the slightest attention.

Both parties are plotting to replace the Lords with an elected second chamber, a senate reflecting the regions and nations of the United Kingdom. The Liberal Democrats want 100 members and a two-year delaying power on non-economic bills. Labour wants 200 members and a five-year delay on "legislation adjudged to reduce civil liberties or human rights". The result will be 1,194 peers on the streets.

Naturally, many peers do not want to forgo their "turn to get their noses in the trough", as Roy Hattersley put it at Labour's press conference on constitutional reform last week. He has led the attack for years on what he describes as an "anachronism", but his own party's barons are less vehement in their condemnation. Secretly, they relish like the creature comforts and kudos afforded by the Lords.

Lord Cledwyn, a life peer and leader of the Opposition peers, does not leap with joy at the word abolition. "In the last 13 years the Lords has performed a very important function and is now accepted in Parliament and the country as



For the high jump? The (mostly) old peers seem to have plenty of life in them yet, but Labour and the Liberal Democrats plan to abolish their House and replace it with an elected second chamber

having produced a significant and constructive opposition," he says, skirting the point.

Others are more direct. "It really is God's waiting room, a marvellous place for old gentlemen to live out their last years chatting and reminiscing," says Lord Willis, the playwright and creator of the television series *Dixon of Dock Green* and *Black Beauty*. "I love the old place, but I mustn't let that kind of luxury blind me to its constitutional defects."

At 74, he suspects he is the longest-serving Labour life peer after 29 years in the House, and subscribes to the "it's undemocratic but it works" school of thought. He credits the creation of more life peers and the Thatcher years with perkering up the House, which is now running at an average of 16 government defeats a year. He thinks the balance of power between the Lords and the Commons is about right, and points to the

problems Australia has with its elected second house flexing its muscles.

His views are echoed by Lord Waddington, the former Tory home secretary, now Lord Privy Seal. "A second House elected in the same way as the Commons would be no good to man or beast. If it is potential rival to the Commons it will not be long before it demands far greater powers."

Besides, a hundred or so members of a senate would ramble around on the red leather seats of the present chamber. There would be none of those wonderful sights such as a flock of judges fighting for space on the second woolsack during the state opening of Parliament. Who would fill the long tables in the three dining rooms, the members' library, and the shooting gallery in the basement recently refurbished for £20,000?

Lord Willis, with his television eye, recognises such potential. "I

particularly like the introduction of a new peer, who is sandwiched between two sponsoring lords to protect him from any sword attacks. They march round the woolsack, go back to the bench, the peer raises a three-cornered hat three times to the king of England, king of Ireland and king of Scotland, none of which exists, and being careful not to trip on his red dressing gown, takes his place It's ludicrous, and rather touching."

few minutes and head off, having earned £59 tax free.

The "cocktail set" is much scorned by the older peers, who know that the real purpose of the House is sleep. In fact, Lord Willis is quick to deny this, pointing out that there are microphones in the back of each bench, and peers lean back to listen. Indeed, those with diminishing hearing may close their eyes to enhance perception.

"The Lords adhere to an unwritten rule that sleeping should be done in the library. There is a room at the end which is supposed to be silent,

but after 2.30pm, you find people recuperating from a fine lunch, and the snores are loud," he says.

As a revising chamber for legislation, the Lords could live without reform. It is easy to attack logically, but it works. Those who attend are effective, and those who are uninterested stay at home, resulting in about 200 regulars. In 1968, the Lords had the sense to vote for a

reform bill ending voting membership for hereditary peers and turning over the work to life peers, but the measure was defeated in the Commons.

Of course, there are some Lords

who want to do the opposite. The Conservative Lord Sudeley sounds

as though he either has his teeth out

(unluckily at 53) or his plums in, but he seems to be saying that the

House of Lords will only become

"an effective counterpoise to an over-powerful Commons if the

creation of life peers ceases".

The old aristocracy, he adds with a sniffling, believed that the possession of property was a trust which created

duties to govern fairly.

The young aristocracy are of a different temperament. Lord Addington, the 27-year-old Liberal Democrat front-bench spokesman, finds himself, like many others, in the peculiar position of campaigning for his own abolition. To their credit, he does not find the older

peers at all patronising, and has gained confidence in debates. Eyes are raised, however, if he comes in wearing a sports jacket and cords.

Lords Addington and Sudeley

exemplify the variety of types thrown up by the hereditary peerage system. John Wells, the author

and playwright presently engaged in researching a book on the House of Lords, suggests that hereditary

does not necessarily mean bad.

"Perhaps if your ancestors are

used to being given space and treated with respect, that confidence comes down to you. Mind

you, I doubt one would think the

same about, say, the inherited skills

of plumbers." He stops to point out

that his theories are not fully

developed, since he is presently

researching the 13th century. "Still,

the reformers have got to realise

that they are not just pulling down a debating chamber. They are

pulling down a cathedral."

## His brother's campaigner

**Mordechai Vanunu has spent 2,000 days alone in an Israeli cell, but his cause is not forgotten**



Cautiously optimistic Meir Vanunu in London

to Mordechai what Jill Morell was to John McCarthy, a bridge to the outside world.

But his job is trickier. Unlike Miss Morell, he must convince the doubters that his brother is a hostage to principle, rather than a spy who got what was coming to him.

The Archbishop of Canterbury refused last month to take up the Vanunu case on the ground that "there is no government which would not put someone in prison for such an offence".

"Technically speaking, Mordechai broke Israeli law," his brother says. "But Israel acted illegally for many years, building its nuclear programme, and kept it secret from the Israeli people, from the elected members of parliament and from the international community."

**T**he right know, he says, is sometimes more important than the imperatives of national security. Thus Mordechai prised open the clenched fist of military censorship and whispered to the world the secret of the plant in the Negev desert, where he had worked as a technician for nine years. The world listened to the message and then forgot about the messenger.

"He brought us that evidence and it's there and we're using it today," Mr Vanunu says. "So why isn't there a bit of recognition? A man was definitely kidnapped from European soil and what did Britain do about it? Nothing."

Instead, the imprisoned whistle-blower spends his days in a cell measuring 6ft by 10ft, with a drain hole that doubles as a lavatory and shower, and takes exercise in a special yard away from other inmates at the Atikot prison 50 miles from Jerusalem — grim conditions which are beginning to take their toll in the form of dizzy spells.

Some rough justice has appointed Meir Vanunu his brother's keeper. "I want nothing more than to guide him into his new world, his new reality, and after the terrible trauma he has been through, help him to stand on his own two feet. That's the most I can do for him."

MATTHEW D'ANCONA

The last year has been one of mixed fortunes and omens for the Vanunu campaign. In February, the Israeli supreme court rejected Mordechai's appeal for a retrial, and his solitary confinement (the justification being that he might otherwise reveal yet more state secrets, including the details of his kidnapping). His lawyer reports that the prisoner's health is declining.

Supportive and strongly worded resolutions in the European parliament, the release of the western hostages and the peace process in the Middle East have made Meir Vanunu hopeful that some movement may be in sight. Protesters held the first ever demonstration outside the Vanunu Trust, which now has its own office in Euston. He is



At 7.20pm on Friday 13th March, in the time it takes you to read this the Erzincan province of Turkey was devastated by an earthquake. 100,000 lost their homes. More than 450 people died; in just 30 seconds. The international relief services, including the Red Cross and the Red Crescent, need your support. Dial this Red Cross number for credit card donations.

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## The trouble with Bafta

Awards ceremonies have the appeal of motor racing mixed with a modestly cultural quiz show. Along with the excitement of guessing the likely winner, there is the ghoulish pleasure in watching disappointed losers grin and bear it. Every so often, someone crashes very publicly. For Bafta, the British Academy of Film and Television Arts, it seems the wheels are coming off.

Many people at the Bafta awards ceremony a fortnight ago, and elsewhere in television, have been unhappy about how the voting system works. Along with the current row over whether *GH* or *Prime Suspect* won the Best TV Drama Series Awards, ITV has been threatening to withdraw from the awards altogether.

ITV has long claimed there is a built-in Bafta bias towards the BBC. But the BBC makes up only a quarter of the Bafta membership. Moreover, this year's awards were split 11 to BBC, 11 to ITV and eight to Channel Four, hardly evidence of pro-BBC bias. There have also been allegations of corruption in the past packing juries with friends and colleagues or, worse, as is alleged in the case of *GH*, the secret ballot producing a different outcome. Today the Bafta council reveals the outcome of its investigation into allegations of vote rigging, and as the voting slips are destroyed weeks before the ceremony, there is little to be done.

The council is also wrestling with the major complaint that much important work is not even nominated. The awards are presented to the public as representing the judgment of our peers. But the selection is made by a system that cannot cope. It presumes all the members see — and remember — a great deal more film and television than they actually have done throughout the year.

The Bafta membership is a mixed group of 2,500 largely middle-aged film and television producers, technicians and administrators. Members suggest programmes for all the categories, and this list is then circulated for endorsement. The cinemas films are voted on by all members, but for television, the top four nominations are put to a jury of invited professionals. The system has pitfalls at every stage.

The British Academy of Film and Television Arts is not quite as "academic" as its title suggests. It originally was only concerned with film. Its chief attraction was and is the free screening of the latest releases for members. When it only dealt with cinema, most members saw all the entries. Even now, nominated feature films are shown

### VIEWPOINT

Roger Graef



to members in the run-up to the final vote.

When, in the mid-1970s, the academy changed its name to include television, the awards system ballooned to take in a huge cross-section of programmes and technical crafts. The televised evenings groaned under their length. Over the years, Bafta has tried to bring the whole gigantic affair back to scale. Extracts from nominations were cut to the minimum, as were acceptance speeches. Recently, all the craft awards were moved to a separate evening. But the central fault remains: like the television audience itself, the membership cannot not keep up with the plethora of work about which its opinion is asked.

The trouble with Bafta is that it does not operate as one audio-visual community, as in France or Germany. Half the Bafta members work in film. Those in television split evenly between the BBC and ITV, and independents. As casualisation has risen, people feel even more isolated. Documentary makers see no common ground with drama or light entertainment. Administrators feel little in common with any of the makers. The technical grades stick together, while the engineers are yet another separate culture, and tend to join the Royal Television Society. Many good young programme makers don't join at all.

The general effect of this fragmentation can be seen in the successful political assaults on the BBC, ITV, and the British film industry, each of which fought their own corner over the years. It also undermines efforts to agree on what constitutes "quality television".

At Bafta, it means members vote on programmes, films and categories of work about which they may know next to nothing. The jury sees only the four nominated programmes. If the wrong episode

represents a series, or the final short-list is awry, there is little the jury can do. I have chaired a jury that refused to award any prize at all for both reasons.

This year, many of the most interesting documentaries were made in the BBC's *Inside Story* strand, which was not even nominated for Best Factual Series, nor any of its films for Best Single Documentary. The BBC makes more Arts programmes than ITV and Channel 4 put together, but none made it into the final four.

This has implications for the future of British television. The vast majority of Bafta members were either working the ludicrous hours normal in film and television, or, like most viewers, watching something else. BBC2's *The Second Russian Revolution*, won the RTS Journalism Award, but had very low audiences and no Bafta nomination.

Highly praised individual programmes are often not repeated for a year, so it is pure chance that Bafta members will have seen them on transmission. Perhaps old series keep winning, not through bias, but because they may be the only titles many film members recall.

Bafta film members also insist on including American films in the British Academy Awards. The result is that British films stand less and less chance of winning in their own country. This is unnecessary, and unfair. The BBC, Channel 4 and ITV also produce films that win in many festivals. (*Black Velvet Gown* won an International Emmy and a NY Film Festival award, but was not nominated for Bafta.)

Things matter: our film and television are in crisis, with investment scarce, and competition from cable and satellite. Sadly, there is no correlation between audience size and programme quality, especially in documentary, drama and comedy. Repeats of nominated or winning programmes would draw fresh viewers, keen to share the jury's choice.

For hard-pressed executives, the prospect of the prestige of an award can be a valuable incentive against the safety of familiar names and tested formulae. Unless we promote risk-taking and quality, we will soon turn out what the Americans call "product", and the awards ceremony will become just another trade show. And series like *GH* and *Inside Story* may not be made.

At Bafta, it means members vote on programmes, films and categories of work about which they may know next to nothing. The jury sees only the four nominated programmes. If the wrong episode

**• Roger Graef has been a Bafta member for 20 years, serving on its council and many juries. He won the 1982 Bafta award for Best Documentary Series.**

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## Woman in a man's world

Robin Hunt talks to Rosie Boycott, editor of the British version of *Esquire*, which is fighting to survive after a wobbly launch and in the face of stiff competition

**T**hose believing that with the demise of the Iron Curtain the days of the show-trial are over should look no further than *Esquire* magazine's letters page this month.

"After some disappointment with the early issues," writes Ian Bentley of Essex, remembering "half-empty pages, non-features featuring nonentities and cartoons which just weren't funny," the magazine is now close to an ideal balance of content and format.

But for now, heaven can wait: Ms Boycott has a tough task. *Esquire* did not launch well here. While its arch-rival, *Conde Nast's GQ*, muscled down under Alexander Shulman to become a successful, brusque, fashion-heavy read (Ms Shulman's reward was the editor's desk at *Vogue*), *Esquire* meandered through the backwaters of its long heritage.

Character she has. And she looks happy behind her *Esquire* desk. "I adore magazines, they are the nicest medium, the whole process of putting them together is heavenly."

But for now, heaven can wait: Ms Boycott has a tough task.

**N**ext month, *Esquire* comes with the kind of track record that press officers would buy five lunches at the Connaught for. Next year it will be 60. In America it has long been associated with high-quality writers — from Hemingway and Dorothy Parker in the Thirties to Tom Wolfe, Norman Mailer and Truman Capote in the Sixties.

When the magazine arrived in Britain its successful American editor came with it. Lee Eisenberg was a feisty pocket dynamo of sass. Mr Eisenberg would explain that the meeting-place of a fashion spread and Saul Bellow short story came when "the fashion pictures are of the human condition..."

Mr Eisenberg neither set the lead nor came up with the headline-grabbing literary journalism that these days *Vanity Fair* seems to corner. Mr Eisenberg never really came to grips with the British market. His vision of it was, at best, that of someone who had watched too many repeats of *Brideshead Revisited* on public-service broadcasting.

Ms Boycott arrived at *Esquire* with a strong track record in magazines and a lot of experience of life with a capital *L*: *Spare Rib* founder, reformed alcoholic and author of a book on her addiction, editor in Kuwait of a magazine for Arabic women, editor of *Discount Trader* magazine, commissioning editor on *The Sunday Telegraph*, deputy editor of *Harpers & Queen*. Her private life tends to the exotic too, with tales of strange animals as pets, as well as a decidedly literary set, taking up temporary residence in her home.

Mailer and Truman Capote in the Sixties.

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The best money can buy  
The cover of the April edition

one! The cover of the April edition  
of *S world* features a portrait of Michael Dobbs, a political writer and former Conservative Central Office staff member. He is shown from the chest up, wearing a dark jacket over a light-colored shirt. The background is a plain, light-colored wall.

He is determined to appear as non-partisan as a pundit but this is not appreciated by party officials who regard him as 'off the leash'. They were livid after he told Channel 4 news that no sensible person in the Conservative party believed Labour would actually increase public spending by £37

million. His astute brain and insiders' knowledge mean he gives good value on television.

He has also timed a book for the election, *Images of Power*, explaining how to gain power through image making, has just been published and gone into re-print.

Appearing on: BBC TV's *The Vote Race*, Channel 4 News, and *The World Tonight*.

**Voting intention:** Conservative.

**Prediction:** Conservatives squeaking home.

**BRENDAN BRUCE**

ANOTHER former top Tory official, but now hated by many in the party hierarchy. Earlier this year they refused to let him in to the young Conservative conference.

He had a difficult 18 months as director of communications in 1989 to 1991. An advertising man who impressed Lord Young, he was disparaged by his enemies within Central Office as a 'Mars bar salesman'. He is an ardent Thatcherite and was soon purged by the new party chairman, Chris Patten after she went.

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As well as work for trade unions and Labour local authorities, he wrote Labour's party political broadcasts from 1987 to 1991.

Brought in by Peter Mandelson, he fell out with John Underwood, who succeeded Mr Mandelson as director of communications. He now gives the party informal advice.

He comes from a working-class family of five brothers and three sisters, all of whom have worked in

advertising and several, like him, with notable success. Now creative partner of Delaney Fletcher Slaymaker Delaney & Bozell, his talents are widely admired. He admits that the Labour link has not gone down well with many actual and potential clients. Brother Tim was a key adviser to James Callaghan in 1979 and brother Simon has directed Labour political broadcasts.

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**DAVID BUTLER**

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Appearing on: Radio 4 on election night.

**Voting intention:** I'm not yet sure. I'm genuinely non-partisan, although I tend to be the soggy middle of the road."

**Prediction:** Fifteen per cent chance of a Tory majority, 70 per cent hung parliament, 15 per cent Labour majority.

**IVOR CREWE**

HE has the knack, rare among academics, of being able to talk clearly and concisely, in punchy language and sticking to the important points. This makes him a master of the television soundbite. Professor of government at Essex University, he is another veteran election observer, at home with figures without being obsessed by them. In the early and mid 1980s

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He advised Labour in the 1970s and was involved in the early stages of the SDP.

Appearing on: Channel 4 Daily.

**Voting intention:** You can't be serious asking me that."

**Prediction:** Fifteen per cent chance for Tory victory, 60 per cent hung parliament, 25 per cent Labour majority.

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Appearing on: BBC Breakfast Time and on the night BBC TV.

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CHAIRMAN of MORI, he has the highest media profile of any pollster.

Some have no desire to become media figures, some are considered by programme-makers to have a poor on-screen presence.

Mr Worcester is usually the broadcasters' first choice when comments are required from a pollster. He sees himself as a political scientist, not just an opinion researcher.

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**Prediction:** 70 per cent chance of Labour majority with hung parliament, 20 per cent Labour with narrow majority, 10 per cent Tory narrow majority.

**LIFE & TIMES TUESDAY APRIL 7 1992**

**MEDIA 7**

# Wisdom from the soundbite scientists

**MICHAEL DOBBS**

CHIEF of Staff at Conservative Central Office in 1987, he is now a successful writer of political thrillers with a knack of timing them well. His fourth novel, a sequel to the televised *House of Cards*, features an election campaign and a constitutional clash between a new prime minister and a king. It will be published on the Monday after polling day.

Relaxed on screen and full of strategic insight, he combines advertising and political expertise. In the 1980s his career alternated between Conservative Central Office and Saachi & Saachi. He is one of the few to reject the received view that Labour 'won' the 1987 campaign, but he was in charge of the Tory effort at the time.

One of his most unenviable tasks was to present Mrs Thatcher with polling evidence about her own popularity. She virtually never spoke to him again. Under Mr Major he is back in favour with the party and advises him on policy.

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Talking heads... some of the broadcasters' favourite election pundits, from the left: Michael Dobbs, Brendan Bruce, David Butler, Ivor Crewe and Robert Worcester

# The right time to be a publisher

**G**raduates entering book publishing may expect to deal with the finer points of literary style. However, instead of discussing simile and metaphor, they are more likely to talk the trade jargon of production and promotion — blurb, dumplings, spinners, four-colour separation, spine widths, shelftalkers and TV tie-ins.

Today, young publishers must prepare for a competitive business career where numeracy may be as important as literacy.

Book sales have held up well in the recession, although staff levels have been trimmed. Certainly 1992 is an interesting time to enter the industry. Retail price maintenance is under pressure and new fiction is being launched in paperback. But how to get in against fierce competition?

Sally Clack, Penguin Books' personnel manager, says: "We do not have a formal graduate recruitment programme but we do recruit graduates into secretarial roles. You do not have to be an ace shorthand typist. Competent keyboard skills would be OK."

Sue Kendall, the personnel manager at Random Century, parent company of Jonathan Cape, Chatto & Windus and Hutchinson, says: "Nearly all Random's editorial staff come in as secretaries who have done an office skills course."

Both companies receive many speculative job applications, a com-

mon way into an industry where many jobs are not advertised. Ms Kendall says this approach is worth trying. She says: "We are all looking to save money and if we can employ somebody without paying for advertising or using an agency, then we will do so." She recommends "writing to a named person, having some idea of what you want to do, and being realistic about what to expect".

A publishing qualification is regarded as a bonus for graduates, not a necessity. Miss Clack believes "postgraduate diploma in publishing can give you an edge as you have an overview of the whole publishing system", and Penguin has recruited students from Watford College in Hertfordshire.

Job-seekers must do their homework. Ms Kendall would not expect a new graduate to know about all the books coming out of a publishing group but believes they should know the different imprints — the publisher's names on the cover. "It is surprising how many graduates do not know," she says. "All they have to do is some research in a bookshop."

Nearly all publishing hopefuls initially want to work in editorial

but most jobs are in production, marketing, sales and accounting. Caroline Hird, the marketing director at Kogan Page, a business books publisher, says: "Book marketing people need copywriting skills, a creative outlook and, increasingly, an understanding of direct marketing." She liaises with editorial and sales departments and works on promotion, publicity and direct mail campaigns.

**S**he urges graduates not to concentrate exclusively on high-profile fiction and not to be deterred by competition. "It is not true that getting in is supremely difficult," she says. "There are not a huge number of jobs as publishing companies are becoming leaner, but if you go about it in the right way, you can do it. Research the stages of production of a book and bone up on the catalogue before the interview."

Editors need a mix of the organisational and the creative. Alison Berry, the publishing director of Red Fox children's paperbacks and Tellastory children's books on tape, says: "You are the central liaison person in the publishing process. You must be sensi-

tive to get the best out of an author but you also have to make tough, unemotional decisions and be prepared to tell a writer, 'Look, this has not worked'."

When recruiting she looks for "somebody with a genuine commitment to children's books, somebody who still enjoys children's books as an adult, and who can make intelligent comments about the books they might see at interview, rather than giving them a cursory glance".

Training is largely on the job, supplemented by short courses. Most jobs are in London, Oxford, Cambridge and Glasgow, and opportunities for science graduates are in scientific, technical and medical publishing. Full-time jobs are few as publishing companies make more use of freelancers.

However, Atron Appointments, a publishing recruitment consultancy, describes prospects as "moving slowly in the right direction". Salaries start at about £10,000, and two in every three people in publishing are now female.

• More details: Publishers Association, 19 Bedford Square, London WC1B 3HU; Society of Young Publishers, c/o J. Whitaker & Sons, 12 Dyer Street, London WC1A 1DF; Book House Training Centre, 45 East Hill, London SW18 2QZ; Directory of Publishing 1992 (Cassell). Publishing courses: Extet College of Art and Design, London; College of Printing, Napier Polytechnic in Edinburgh; Oxford Polytechnic; Watford College



Tips from Karen Holden: "Be brash and brave. Make contacts"

## PROFILE Graduate's progress

KAREN HOLDEN is an editorial assistant at Hutchinson, which employs 20 people in editorial, production and publicity. Derek Morgan writes. Ms Holden, a 27-year-old languages graduate, first worked for a computer company. "I had been told it might be easier to get into publishing with some general business experience," she says. "I am not sure I would subscribe to that view now."

Persistence, temporary work and a two-week typing course resulted in a publicity assistant's post at Pan Macmillan. A year later Ms Holden became secretary to the editorial director at a Macmillan imprint, Picador. When her boss moved, she followed, becoming editorial assistant at Hutchinson.

Ms Holden works mainly on Radius, a science, politics and biography list, but has done text-editing on Sir Michael Tippett's autobiography, *Those Twentieth Century Blues*, and worked on *From the House of War*, by the television journalist John Simpson.

She regularly attends book launch receptions. Another attraction is researching new fields.

Her advice to would-be publishers: "Be brash and brave. Build up contacts. Read *The Bookseller*. Get any freelance experience you can, such as proof-reading. Once you are in, show yourself willing to take on whatever is thrown at you."

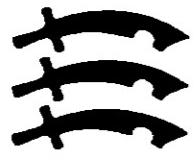
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Following a review of the organisation and structure of the administration of the Magistrates' Courts Service, both nationally and in Hertfordshire, major changes are planned.

As a result, the Courts' Committee wish to appoint a full time Chief Executive and Clerk to the Magistrates' Courts' Committee to head the management of the Service. This is a new post, designed to meet the challenge of implementing the decisions of the Courts' Committee in this time of change and to work with the existing Justices' Clerks' to achieve an effective and efficient service, within the constraints of cash limiting and in line with the proposals set out in the government white paper.

For this demanding post you should be a motivated and highly competent senior manager with a positive

and professional attitude who would in turn motivate others.

It is essential that you are qualified as a solicitor or barrister, and a knowledge of the Magistrates' Courts' Service would be an advantage. A management qualification would be desirable as would previous experience of senior administrative management.

The appointment will be on a three year fixed contract with an option to renew and will attract a relocation allowance, a lease car and participation in the local government pension scheme.

Hertfordshire Magistrates' Courts' Service

### Director of Administration and Secretary and Solicitor

Chief Officer Grade £28,500 to £32,181 per annum plus car allowance and relocation package

Based at Aldern House, Bakewell

The promotion of Christopher Harrison to the chief executive post of National Park Officer to the Peak Park Joint Planning Board leaves this second tier post vacant in the Peak National Park.

Applicants are invited for the job, to lead the Administration division covering central services and to act as Secretary and Solicitor, directly responsible to the authority.

The post requires proven managerial ability with several years' experience of local government and planning law in particular.

Full details and an application form are available from the Personnel Officer, National Park Office, Baslow Road, Bakewell, Derbyshire DE4 1AE.

Closing date 22 April 1992.

The Peak Park Joint Planning Board is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

PEAK NATIONAL PARK

South Downs Health

### MANAGER

CHAILEY HERITAGE/DISABLEMENT SERVICES CENTRE

Salary: £23,940pa

Ref: G564

An exciting opportunity exists for an ambitious person to manage services for children and adults with a physical disability. Chailey Heritage offers a wide range of medical services for children referred from all over the UK and some from abroad, as well as flexible care services for children attending Chailey Heritage School. It is a complex service requiring a manager to have good communication skills, an ability to lead a multi-disciplinary team of health professionals and will require liaison with Education and Social Services. As Contractual income is earned from 25 Health and nine Education Authorities, the post-holder must be numerate and possess a good understanding of contracting issues.

The Disablement Services Centre, based in Brighton, has contracts with six districts providing artificial limb services and a local wheelchair service. The Centre has a site manager, who is responsible for the operational issues, while the post-holder oversees operational issues and co-ordinates strategic planning.

For an informal discussion contact: David Thompson on 082-572 2112 ext 300.

Job description form from: The Personnel Department, South Downs Health NHS Trust, 14 Wellington Road, Brighton BN2 3AA. Tel: 0273 693600 ext 3778 (answerphone during office hours).

Closing date for applications: Wednesday, April 15, 1992

Interviews will be held on Wednesday, April 29, 1992.

### SECRETARY/PERSONAL ASSISTANT

National Voluntary Organisation associated with care of people within the Community has vacancy for mature, experienced Secretary for work concerning non-medical assistance in hospitals. PA duties will involve postholder with varied projects.

Applicants should have good Sec skills (S/H and audio), be good communicator, diplomatic and have interest in people. Commercial or retailing experience an advantage. Non-smoker. Office located London SW9. Telephone 071 416 0146 Ext 2072 for information.

### ST GEORGE'S CHAPEL WINDSOR CASTLE SURVEYOR OF THE FABRIC

The Dean and Canons of Windsor seek to appoint a Surveyor of the Fabric for St George's Chapel in Windsor Castle. Applicants should be qualified architects with experience of the care and conservation of ancient buildings.

Details of the post may be obtained from: The Chapter Clerk, The Chapter Office, The Cloisters, Windsor Castle, Berkshire SL4 1NJ to whom letters of application with c.v. and the names of three referees should be sent by 1 May, 1992.

### HEALTH SCREEN MANAGER

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Department. Required to work with UK and Japanese doctors. Japanese Language and familiarity with Japanese lifestyle essential.

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All Blackett Square  
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- LIFE & TIMES TUESDAY APRIL 7 1992
1. Haunting (6)  
2. Broke (4,2)  
3. Passage (7)  
4. Ship of the dead (6)  
5. Baccarat cards (3)  
6. Curt (7)  
7. Rule by clever (4)  
8. Rule (7)  
9. Old fashioned (4)  
10. Old fashioned (4)  
11. US "under" (3)  
12. North by North (4,5)  
13. Solutions to (2)  
14. Passage (7)  
15. Broke (4,2)  
16. Old fashioned (4)  
17. Tolerant (19)  
18. Curve (3)  
19. Fiealish (7)  
20. Royal residence (3)  
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22. Old fashioned (4)  
23. New (3)  
24. Old (25) New (2)  
25. Diluted (6)  
26. Film office (6)
- DOWN  
1. London business (4)  
2. Instruct (5)  
3. Frenzied emotion (9)  
4. Curve (3)  
5. Fiealish (7)  
6. Royal residence (3)  
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20. Royal residence (3)  
21

LIFE &amp; TIMES TUESDAY APRIL 7 1992

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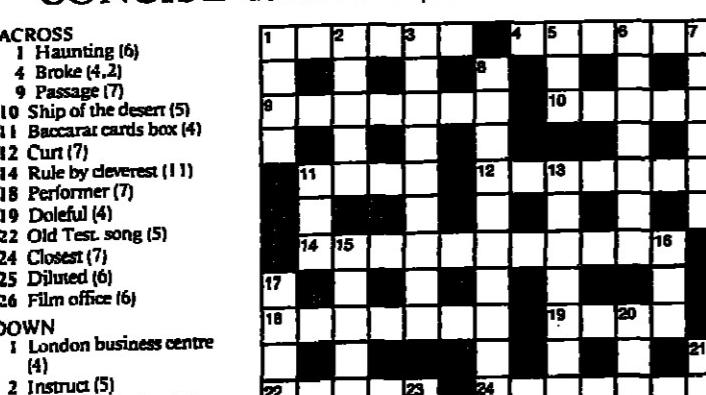
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ACROSS: 1 Hunting (6)

4 Blot (4,3)

9 Passage (7)

10 Ship of the desert (5)

11 Beccar cards box (4)

12 Curt (7)

14 Rule by cleverest (11)

18 Performer (7)

19 Doyle (4)

22 Old Test. song (5)

24 Closter (7)

25 Dismised (6)

26 Film office (6)

DOWN: 1 London business centre (4)

2 Instruct (5)

3 Frenzied emotional fit (9)

5 Curve (3)

6 Fiendish (7)

7 Royal residence (6)

8 Unoccupied (2,1,5,3)

11 US "uncle" (3)

13 North by Northwest star (4,5)

By Raymond Keene, Chess Correspondent

Position is a variation  
from the game Alekhine

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Can you see how white  
forced checkmate in three  
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Solution below.



Solution: 1. Rg7+ Kf7 2. Qd7# Kf8 3. Qg7 mate

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## BBC1

**6.00 Ceefax** (10620) 6.30 Breakfast News (47753945)  
**9.05 Election Call** introduced by Jonathan Dimbleby. The Labour party leader Neil Kinnock answers viewers' and listeners' phone-in questions. To participate ring 071-799 5000. Simultaneous broadcast with Radio 4 (6950842).  
**10.00 News**, regional news and weather (72484) 10.05 Playdays. For the very young (r) (32133) 10.25 **The Family Ness**. Cartoon adventures of a modest family resident in Loch Ness (r) (7970303).  
**11.00 News**, regional news and weather (735738) 11.05 **Help Yourself**. Paul Rhodes finds out how counselling helps to cope with the stress of unemployment and the worries of unemployment (804376) 11.30 **People Today**. Magazine series presented by Miriam Stoppard and Adrian Mills. Includes regional news and weather at 12.00 (6843129).  
**12.00 BBC Pebble Mill**. Music and chat hosted by Judi Spler (s) (8508939).  
**12.15 Regional News and weather** (13505113).  
**1.00 One O'Clock News and weather** (346202).  
**1.30 Neighbours**. (Ceefax) (s) (64189397) 1.50 Turnabout. Word power quiz game. The question-masters are Rob Cuning (64183113) and Hayward. Forgettable but charming piece of nothing about a young songwriter who goes to New York to seek fame and fortune and then gets taken off by an unscrupulous rival. Directed by Albert S. Riegel (6232900).  
**3.40 Cartoon**. MGM's *Barnyard Babies* (2478939) 3.50 **Just So Stories**. The first of a new series of Rudyard Kipling's classic children's stories, narrated by Geoffrey Matthews (2467823) 4.00 **Chucklevision** (r) (s) (2894649) 4.20 **Happy Families**. Episode one of a series based on the novels by Allan Ahlberg (9445200) 4.35 **Pirates of Dark Water**. A new animated adventure (8129026).  
**5.00 Newsround** (74295620) 5.10 **The Lowdown**. A new series exploring the fantasy world of children's imaginary friends. (Ceefax) (s) (7172674).  
**5.35 Neighbours** (r). (Ceefax) (s) (488179). Northern Ireland: Inside Ulster.  
**6.00 Six O'Clock News** with Anna Ford and Andrew Harvey. (Ceefax) Weather (910).  
**6.30 Regional News Magazines** (262). Northern Ireland: Neighbours 7.00 **Holiday**. In the last of the series Ross King reports on a package holiday in Northern Queensland; and Eamonn Holmes visits three popular British seaside resorts — Scarborough, Ayr and Margate. Presented by Amanda Rice. (Ceefax) (s) (5858).  
**7.30 EastEnders**. (Ceefax) (s) (674).



Is it on or off? Paul Nicholas and Jan Francis (8.00pm)

**8.00 Just Good Friends**. John Sullivan's romantic comedy about the on/off relationship between Paul Nicholas and Jan Francis (r). (Ceefax) (3378).  
**8.30 A Question of Sport** introduced by David Coleman. Joining Bill Beaumont and John Parrott this week are Ray Houghton, Dalton Grant, Alex Greaves and David Feherty. (Ceefax) (s) (7723).  
**9.00 Nine O'Clock News and Campaign Report** Michael Buerk. (Ceefax) Regional news and weather (606858).  
**9.30 Party Election Broadcast** by the Conservative party (168736).  
**10.00 Resnick**. Episode two of the three-part dramatisation by John Harvey of his novels concerning an unorthodox detective inspector, starring Tom Wilkinson. Tonight he and his team are forced to admit that there is a serial killer on the loose. (Ceefax) (s) (232692).  
**10.50 Film** *92 with Barry Norman*. Among the films reviewed this week are Steven Spielberg's *Hook* and *The Doctor*, starring William Hurt (s) (243007). Northern Ireland: End of the Line.  
**11.20 Private Eye**. American detective series set in Los Angeles during 1956, starring Michael Woods and Josh Brolin (998842). Northern Ireland: Film 9.15-10.20 *Private Eye*.  
**12.10am On the Hustings**. Highlights from the day's important election speeches (4957934).  
**12.40 Weather** (4960953). Northern Ireland: 1.20-1.50 *On the Hustings*.

## BBC2

**6.45 Open University: Managing Schools — One More Step** (7243303). Ends at 7.10. 8.00 Breakfast News (6031397).  
**8.15 Wedding at Easington**. Documentary following the preparations for a wedding in a small pit village on the Durham coast (r). (Ceefax) (6254815).  
**9.00 Film** *Axeme Lepin Returns* (1938, b/w) starring Melvyn Douglas. A private detective, investigating a robbery in New York, ends up in Paris on the trail of a legendary jewel thief. Directed by George Fitzmaurice (8441612).  
**10.15 Film** *The Stratton Story* (1949, b/w) starring James Stewart and June Allyson. The story of a farm boy who becomes a professional baseball player, only for a fresh accident to threaten his career. Directed by Sam Wood (15041769).  
**12.00 The Animals Nobody Loved**. A defence of the mustang, rattlesnake and coyote (r) (572544) 1.20 *Mirra Benn* (r) (83998378).  
**1.35 In the Post**. The development of a mail (r) (8190115).  
**2.00 News and weather** (30104668) followed by *Look Stranger*. Ship's cook Sylvia Denison (r) (5910326) 2.30 *See Hear!* (r) (823).  
**3.00 News and weather** (2675133) followed by *The High Chaparral*. (r) (8065533) 3.30 **News**, regional news and weather (2465465).  
**4.00 Film** *Interlude* (1957) starring June Allyson and Rosanno Brazzi. Romantic drama about an American reporter in Munich who falls for a married orchestra conductor. Directed by Douglas Sirk (606202).  
**5.30 Gardeners' World**. Includes a visit to a Merton, south London, garden designed by Gertrude Jekyll (r) (939).  
**6.00 Film** *They Who Dare* (1953) starring Clark Bogarde and Denholm Elliott. Staff upper lip stuff about a team of crack British second world war commandos on a sabotaging mission on Rhodes. Directed by Lewis Milestone (74128533).  
**7.50 Young Musicians** (the Year). Five musicians compete in the Young Virtuoso series (s) (8723378).  
**8.30 KYTV**. Comedy series set in the offices of a satellite television station (s) (642200).  
**9.00 Quantum Leap**. Off-beat sci-fi series starring Scott Bakula as a time-trapped scientist. (Ceefax) (s) (524200).



Sitting redundant: a vacant property in Hackney (9.50pm)

**9.50 40 Minutes: Get Out!**  
**• CHOICE:** A report from Hackney in east London shows the council trying to evict squatters from some of its more than 1,000 empty properties. The film does not explain why so much space is unoccupied when there is no shortage of homeless people. A further puzzle is why, even when the squatters have been turned out, flats and maisonettes still remain empty. Perhaps the subject is too complex to be handled in a shortish space. What mostly emerges from John Alexander's film is a tragic muddle from which no one gains satisfaction. The squatters' resort attempts to eject them and say they are only taking space no one else wants. Homeless families are not overjoyed at being offered what one of them calls crap and the council's housing officers get it in the neck from everyone. (Ceefax) (531026).  
**10.30 Party Election Broadcast** by the Conservative party (146842).  
**10.40 Newsnight** (80910).  
**11.25 Late Show**. Arts and media magazine (s) (869991).  
**12.15 Weather** (267514).  
**12.20 Open University: Silver — Source of Power for the State** (497085). Ends at 12.50.

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• Via the Astra and Marco Polo satellites. News on the hour. 6.00am News (4778842) 6.30 Weather (4778842) 7.00 Breakfast News (4778842) 7.30 Weather (4778842) 8.00 *Brothers Running* (48483) 8.30 *With Electron Phone* (48483) 9.00 *Nightline* (50574) 12.00 *News* (69267) 1.30pm *Good Morning America* (29945) 2.30 *Good Morning America* (62397) 3.30 *New Day* (62397) 4.00 *Garwood: Prisoner of War* (1950) 4.45 *Prisoner of War* (1945) 5.00 *1989: Soviets invade Afghanistan* (50200) 5.00 *Live At Five* (95945) 6.30 *Newsline* (75707) 6.30 *Target* (39591) 10.30 *Young and the Restless* drama (856484) 12.30 *30 Years Ago* (61421) 1.30 *ABC News* (61421) 2.30 *News* (61421) 3.00 *News* (61421) 4.00 *Memories* (20869) 5.30 *Newsline* (75705) 6.30 *Morn* (20869) 5.30 *News* (40595).

## SKY MOVIES+

• Via the Astra and Marco Polo satellites. 6.00am *Showbiz* (884206). 10.00 *Love at First Sight* (1991) 7.30 *Baby Talk* (8587) 8.00 *Champagne Charlie* (85897) 10.00 *Stardust* (11659) 11.00 *Another World* (812129) 2.30 *Santa Barbara* (5486587) 2.45 *The Bold and the Beautiful* (684465) 3.15 *The Brady Bunch* (2310658) 3.45 *The Doctors Show* (2310658) 5.00 *6.00pm* (684465) 6.00 *6.00pm* (684465) 6.30 *Street* (2303) 7.00 *Love at First Sight* (1991) 7.30 *Another World* (812129) 2.30 *Santa Barbara* (5486587) 2.45 *The Bold and the Beautiful* (684465) 3.15 *The Brady Bunch* (2310658) 3.45 *The Doctors Show* (2310658) 5.00 *6.00pm* (684465) 6.00 *6.00pm* (684465) 6.30 *Street* (2303) 7.00 *Love at First Sight* (1991) 7.30 *Another World* (812129) 2.30 *Santa Barbara* (5486587) 2.45 *The Bold and the Beautiful* (684465) 3.15 *The Brady Bunch* (2310658) 3.45 *The Doctors Show* (2310658) 5.00 *6.00pm* (684465) 6.00 *6.00pm* (684465) 6.30 *Street* (2303) 7.00 *Love at First Sight* 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